



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Planning Guidance for the Gwent Levels National Natural Resource Area (Future Wales Policy 9)

Draft Environmental Report: Annex A

Welsh Government: Consultation Version 17th February – 31st March
2026

Annex A - Detailed Assessment of Strategic Principles and Actions

Strategic Principles that have been assessed

Note that the wording below reflects the wording and also the numbering at the time the assessment was undertaken and therefore they will differ from those set out in the draft Guidance being consulted. This is because the assessment resulted in a number of recommendations to improve the wording and application of the Strategic Principles and Actions (see Table 2-5). As a result of the assessment the numbering of some of the Actions will have also changed. In the draft Guidance being consulted upon Action 11 as assessed below has become Action 6. Subsequently Actions 6-10 below will have all moved up one number and become Actions 7-11 in the actual draft Guidance.

Strategic Principle 1: The Gwent Levels National Natural Resource Area (NNRA)

The Gwent Levels NNRA is a defined spatial area where opportunities to safeguard and strengthen biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience, and green infrastructure should be maximised. Such safeguarding and strengthening opportunities should assist the landscape to adapt to climate change and enhance the benefits of ecosystem services that contribute to wellbeing across its entire landscape.

Strategic Principle 2: The Gwent Levels Core Zone

The integrity and resilience of the Gwent Levels Core Zone must be maintained and strengthened as a well-connected landscape, ensuring its unique character and vital ecosystem services are protected, restored, and enhanced for future generations.

Strategic Principle 3: The Gwent Levels Recovery (Opportunity) Zone

The Gwent Levels NNRA is a defined spatial area where opportunities to safeguard and strengthen biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience, and green infrastructure should be maximised. Such safeguarding and strengthening opportunities should assist the landscape to adapt to climate change and enhance the benefits of ecosystem services that contribute to wellbeing across its entire landscape

Actions that have been assessed

Action 1 - NNRA Net Benefit for Biodiversity

All land-use proposals within the NNRA must deliver a Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) and provide robust evidence demonstrating how this has been achieved. This should be in accordance with national planning policy requirements and fully comply with the step-wise approach set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW).

Action 2 - NNRA Resilient Ecosystems

All land use proposals within the NNRA must demonstrate how they contribute to maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and their benefits (ecosystem services). Proposals should provide clear evidence of how this has been achieved by addressing all attributes and emerging properties associated with the DECCA framework.

Action 3 - NNRA Landscape Approach & Functional Linkages

The functional linkage between the NNRA and the Severn Estuary Marine Protected Area (SPA, SAC Ramsar and SSSI), River Usk SAC, River Wye SAC should be maintained and enhanced as part of all land-use proposals.

Action 4 - NNRA Key Protected Species

Land use proposals within the NNRA should provide clear evidence of how key protected species have been considered, including their protection, connectivity, and contribution to ecosystem resilience across the landscape.

Action 5 - NNRA In-combination Effects

Land use proposals within the NNRA should provide clear evidence of how they have identified, assessed, and addressed potential in-combination effects, including cumulative impacts on landscape character, visual amenity and open spaces.

Action 6 - Core Zone NBB Strategic Opportunities

The Core Zone may provide strategic opportunities to deliver off-site NBB from development proposals elsewhere within the NNRA or outside it, provided they fall within the administrative boundaries of the three constituent Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). This applies where it is not possible to achieve appropriate NBB through the stepwise approach on-site. On-site provision should always be the default, with off-site compensation targeted to the Core Zone from those other locations only where it fully complies with PPW.

Action 7 - Core Zone Features & Supporting Habitats

The loss of any features or their supporting habitats within statutory and non-statutory designated sites in the Core Zone must be avoided. For statutory designated sites within the Core Zone, the term 'features' should be understood to include both 'notified' and 'qualifying' features equally.

Action 8 - Core Zone Landscape-scale Integrity and Resilience

To achieve protection, restoration, and enhancement, the Core Zone should function as a single, integrated landscape. The Core Zone must be managed and enhanced so that, in its entirety, it achieves and maintains favourable condition at a landscape scale.

Action 9 - Core Zone Water Availability & Hydrology

Land use proposals within the Core Zone should provide evidence that:

- 1) They will not adversely affect water availability or the functioning of the drainage system within the Core Zone
- 2) They will not adversely affect water quality or the ecological condition of the drainage network, ensuring the continued support of SSSI features and associated habitats
- 3) The ecological integrity of the Core Zone is maintained by safeguarding and enhancing functional linkages between habitats, species, and water networks, ensuring that connectivity across the landscape is preserved and not fragmented.

Action 10 - Core Zone Traditional Nature-based Management Practices

Traditional forms of agricultural management must be retained in relation to banksides and grasslands adjacent to Reens and Ditches in determining any land-use proposals within the Core Zone.

Action 11 - Core Zone Long-term Resilience and Delivery Mechanisms

Land-use proposals within the Gwent Levels Core Zone must demonstrate how they will protect and enhance the long-term resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites, ensuring that short-term benefits do not compromise future sustainability.

To achieve this, proposals should:

1. Provide comprehensive information at submission, including survey data, mitigation and/or compensation measures, and biodiversity enhancement plans.
2. Avoid reliance on pre-commencement conditions or deferral of key elements.
3. Show how existing evidence (e.g., SSSI citations, Priority Habitats, Local Nature Recovery Plans) has informed the proposal.
4. Ensure that proposed mitigation measures are evidence-based and proven effective in similar habitats and ecosystems.

Action 12 - Recovery Zone Ecological Networks and Ecosystem Services

The ecological network and ecosystem services of the Recovery Zone should be safeguarded to strengthen the resilience and adaptability of the Core Zone. Land use proposals should evidence how they will safeguard and enhance connectivity to and the resilience of the Gwent Levels Core Zone

Action 13 - Recovery Zone Habitats and Species

In Recovery Zones, all Section 7 priority habitats and species must be safeguarded, restored, and enhanced, and all other semi-natural habitats should be safeguarded and enhanced.

Action 14 - Core Zone NBB Strategic Opportunities

As with Action 6, the Recovery Zone may also provide strategic opportunities to deliver off-site NBB from development proposals elsewhere within the NNRA or outside it, provided they fall within the administrative boundaries of the three constituent Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). This applies only where:

1. As per Action 6, it is not possible to achieve appropriate NBB through the stepwise approach on-site in compliance with PPW;
2. Opportunities under Action 6, within the Core Zone, have been fully considered, and a clear justification provided where these are not being pursued; and
3. Opportunities within the Recovery Zone can be evidenced to deliver NBB that are equal to or greater than those achievable in the Core Zone, or are fundamental to improvements within the Core Zone.

| Scoring of Assessment | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ++ | Strong positive – likely to result in strong progress towards the ISA objective (significant) |
| + | Minor positive – likely to result in limited progress towards the ISA objective |
| 0 | Neutral outcome |
| +/- | Range of possible positive and negative outcomes |
| ? | Uncertain outcome |
| - | Minor negative – likely to work against the achievement of the ISA objective |
| -- | Strong negative – likely to strongly work against the achievement of the ISA objective (significant) |
| Scale | SR – Sub Regional |
| T/P | T- Temporary P – Permanent |
| Certainty | H- High M- Medium L - Low |
| ST | Short Term – 5 years |
| MT | Medium Term – 10 years |
| LT | Long term – 20 years |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------|-----------------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations | |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | Green | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | Include a link and reference within Strategic Principle 1 to the definitive mapped Gwent Levels NNRA area to which this Principle and subsequent Actions are to apply. |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: L | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | <p><u>Strategic Principle 1 (SP1)</u></p> <p>The overall impact of SP1 is positive for sustainable growth. The focus of SP1 is about ensuring ecosystem resilience and strengthening biodiversity networks at a landscape scale. It does not directly encourage development but will ensure any development that does take place across the NNRA area is sustainable, appropriate and looks to avoid negative impacts and maximise positive impacts. This Strategic Principle therefore would not directly generate new jobs or economic growth but would ensure any such development is delivered in appropriately and in the right location. The provision of green infrastructure and delivery of ecosystem resilience would help create attractive places to invest and work with opportunities for employees to travel sustainably and have well-being benefits from the surrounding area. When considering sustainable economic growth, a more resilient ecosystem has a secondary positive impact as the natural beauty of landscapes is a key attribute of the rural economy especially for recreation and tourism. In the short term, the impact is mixed as SP1 would ensure that any growth is sustainable and green however it is recognised there is limit in scale of impact SP1 will have on growth within the Gwent Levels when considering the actual size of the spatial area of the NNRA. It could also limit economic development where such development would result in the further fragmentation of habitat etc. This Principle is unlikely to serve as the primary catalyst for economic growth; rather, it functions as a supportive factor that can encourage sustainable development when applied effectively. The Resilient Ecological Networks (REN) mapping provides further clarity for proposed land-uses as to how it might best meet the requirements of Policy 9 and NBB. SP1 is considered to have positive impacts overall across the NNRA. It was considered that including a reference to the NNRA definitive boundary mapping in the Principle would provide clarity.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 2 (SP2)</u></p> <p>The overall impact of SP2 is positive for sustainable economic growth. By defining a Core Zone, it looks to address environmental fragmentation and enhance functional linkages. Establishing a Core Zone helps to provide a spatial framework to ensure its character and ecosystem services are maintained,</p> | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | restored and strengthened fostering a dynamic and well-connected landscape. Due to the protected nature of the Core Zone it is recognised that while sustainable economic growth can benefit from robust ecosystems etc as discussed in SP1 above, these designations will mean that development opportunities are likely to mainly occur outside of the designated Core Zone and development opportunities would be very limited. The positive score reflects the nature of the Core Zone and the rural economy where within the Core, agricultural development is the predominant land-use. The Principle would therefore ensure development which does come forward is delivered sustainably and would need to enhance and restore the vital ecosystem services, encouraging a targeted, sustainable management strategy for green growth at an appropriate scale. Strategic Principle 2 is considered to have positive impacts overall. It is important to acknowledge, however, that development will be tempered due to the predominance of designated sites which are already protected and where PPW already makes it clear that development is generally unacceptable. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u></p> <p>SP1 is expected to have a positive influence on sustainable tourism by ensuring that it builds on the distinctive environmental, cultural, and heritage qualities of the Gwent Levels. By safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, the landscape, cultural and heritage value of the area is protected and enhanced. This enhances its attraction as a tourist destination and the interest for proposals for low-impact recreation could therefore increase. This may create supportive conditions for new and existing businesses linked to the tourism industry such as recreation and the visitor economy.</p> | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <p>Although it is recognised that economic growth is not the principal driver of SP1 there could be an indirect benefit. A synergistic effect is anticipated over time, as a stronger and better-managed landscape increases its attraction for visitors, reinforcing the benefits of continued environmental stewardship.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 2</u></p> <p>SP2 is considered to have the same impacts as SP1 however it is recognised that development opportunities are more constrained than in the wider NNRA due to its existing statutory designations. It is recognised that delivering SP2 would create a more attractive destination for visitors and this may increase the interest for tourism relate development. Any development would however be minimal in line with the strict requirements of PPW ensuring the unique characteristics are protected, restored and enhanced.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 3</u></p> <p>SP3 is expected to have a positive impact on sustainable tourism. This is considered to have the same impacts as SP1 where it may create favourable conditions for new and existing businesses in the tourism industry - though it is recognised that a large part of the Zone is already green infrastructure.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| <p><u>Strategic Principles 1, 2 & 3</u></p> <p>These principles focus on maximising environmental enhancement and safeguarding the distinctiveness of the Gwent Levels landscape; however, it does not actively encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment. The impact from the Principles is therefore neutral as it doesn't impact education attainment.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u></p> | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | <p>Air quality is recognised as an issue within the Gwent Levels in particular around the motorway corridor. Air quality challenges in the area are largely influenced by external factors, including traffic and industrial activity adjacent to the Levels which sit outside the scope of the NNRA's influence. It is considered that there are indirect benefits from SP1 on air quality through the provisions of green infrastructure which can support modal shift through active travel opportunities but this is unlikely to be delivered at a scale large enough to have a significant impact. It is also recognised that enhanced ecosystem resilience can contribute to carbon sequestration, although again the scale and certainty of these benefits remain limited. The primary purpose of SP1 is to safeguard, protect and enhance the ecosystem services at a landscape scale, and while air quality is recognised as an important issue, it is considered that SP1 would only deliver indirect improvements in this area and therefore the overall impact is considered to be neutral.</p> <p>Strategic Principle 2</p> <p>Air quality is recognised as an issue across the Gwent Levels, but less so within the Core Zone recognising it is predominantly a rural area and less polluted. As recognised in SP1 by safeguarding sensitive habitats, reinforcing ecological connectivity, and enhancing the functioning of the landscape these can deliver air-quality benefits. It is recognised that the features and designation in the Core Zone such as water meadows have important carbon sequestration roles and therefore there are potentially positive contributions arising from maintaining the integrity of the Core Zone's natural systems. Therefore, it is considered that SP2's effect on air quality is potentially positive as a result of protecting and strengthening the Core Zone's vital ecosystem services.</p> <p>Strategic Principle 3</p> <p>Air quality is recognised as a more significant issue in parts of the Recovery Zone due to its proximity to the motorway and associated road corridors. However, the overall influence of SP3 on air quality remains limited for the same reasons as set out in SP1. Therefore, overall, SP3's impact on air quality is assessed as neutral.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| <p>Strategic Principle 1</p> | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | | <p>SP1 is expected to have a significant positive impact on achieving this objective, as its primary focus is on safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks and protecting and supporting long-term ecosystem resilience. By enhancing the integrity of habitats within the NNRA, SP1 helps secure the ecological functions necessary for a healthy and connected landscape. Although green infrastructure aims to maximise low-impact access and enjoyment of the landscape, this can still result in increased visitor presence within ecologically fragile areas. However, SP1 provides a clear framework to ensure these pressures are managed and green infrastructure and tourism development is delivered in a sustainable way. within the NNRA. Overall, this is expected to deliver a significant positive effect by improving ecological connectivity and supporting decision-making.</p> <p>Strategic Principle 2 As with SP1, SP2 is expected to have a significant positive impact on achieving this objective, as its core purpose is to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity networks and strengthen long-term ecosystem resilience and services across the Gwent Levels. By improving the integrity of habitats within the Core Zone, the principle helps secure the ecological functions required for a healthy, well-connected landscape. SP2 ensures that any proposed development within the Core can only occur if it does not affect the integrity of this sensitive area.</p> <p>Strategic Principle 3 SP3 is also expected to have a significant positive impact on this objective. The Recovery Zone plays an important role in supporting the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Core Zone by providing opportunities to safeguard and enhance biodiversity in the Recovery Zone. The principal aims are to identify areas where strategic action can strengthen ecological networks and contribute to wider ecosystem resilience. By improving ecological connectivity and reinforcing landscape functions, SP3 supports the continued health and coherence of the Gwent Levels ecological network in its own right and this could be strengthened in the supporting text. SP3 helps ensure that ecological processes extend across a wider area, complementing the more sensitive Core Zone and contributing to its long-term resilience.</p> | | | | | characteristics, are important in their own right and not just for their supporting role in relation to the resilience of the Core Zone. | |
| | | | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | <u>Strategic Principles 1, 2 & 3</u> These Strategic Principles are expected to have a positive impact on flood risk and management. They support ecosystem services that contribute to landscape resilience, reflecting the historic role of the Gwent Levels in managing water and hydrological processes. The Gwent Levels are well adapted to dealing with localised flooding. Existing management approaches, including the hold-the-line strategy (Shoreline Management Plan) and long-established agricultural water-level regulation, continue to play an important role. While climate change is likely to increase overall flood risk, the future impact on the Gwent Levels may remain relatively stable due to these established management systems, though pressures from extreme weather, pollutants, and broader environmental risks may increase the impacts in this area. These Strategic Principles will strengthen biodiversity, improve ecological function, and support land-management practices which will contribute towards the overall resilience of the Gwent Levels. | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| <u>Strategic Principle 1, 2 & 3</u> SP1 and SP3 look to safeguard and strengthen biodiversity networks and ecosystem resilience at a landscape scale. This would include the improvement and management of the reens, grips, and wider drainage features. SP3 recognises the functional role between the Core Zone and the Recovery Zone where these linkages support the established hydrological processes that characterise the Gwent Levels. The effectiveness of the Strategic Principles, however, are dependent on the actions and land-management practices that feed into it, as the drainage network of the Gwent Levels is intrinsic to both the biodiversity and the character of the landscape. By reinforcing ecological networks and supporting improved landscape function, SP2 contributes positively to the ongoing management and maintenance of the drainage system. The effect is significant for SP2 as this recognises this area being intrinsically shaped by the drainage system and it would exert a stronger influence on the functioning of the drainage network compared with areas outside it. Although drainage across the wider NNRA is shaped by the whole landscape, the Core Zone remains the most critical area for maintaining drainage system integrity. Development proposals in the Recovery Zone should reflect its relationship with the Core by incorporating green infrastructure that aligns with existing drainage patterns or enhances them where | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations |
| | | appropriate. In doing so, SP3 supports the continuity of historic water management practices of the Core and helps sustain the wider landscape framework that underpins hydrological stability. | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u></p> <p>SP1 is expected to have a positive impact on physical, mental, and social health and well-being by contributing towards enhancing the distinctive environmental, cultural, and heritage qualities of the Gwent Levels. By safeguarding these assets throughout the NNRA, the landscape's identity is strengthened and its potential for being attractive to low-impact recreation opportunities may be increased. A synergistic effect is anticipated over time, as a stronger and better-managed landscape provides improved amenity green space that can facilitate play, leisure, recreation, and informal education. The provision of green infrastructure also has the potential to support mental health through encouraging active travel and increasing access to high-quality natural environments. Overall, the impact is expected to be positive, though moderated by the principle's indirect role in shaping health outcomes.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 2</u></p> <p>Strategic Principle Two is expected to have a positive influence on physical, mental, and social health and well-being, reflecting the Core Zone's role as the most distinctive, tranquil, and environmentally intact part of the Gwent Levels. Situated further away from major urban settlements, the Core Zone offers quieter, more immersive natural environments that provide opportunities for rest, recreation, and connection with nature. Although this distance may reduce accessibility for some communities, well-designed and sensitively planned green infrastructure can strengthen links to the Core Zone and enhance its ability to support health and well-being outcomes.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | | |
| | | SP2 plays a different role from SP1. While SP1 shapes access to the wider NNRA and provides the landscape-scale framework, SP2 acts as the destination — the place where people experience the strongest sense of landscape identity, historic character, and ecological richness. Over the long term, this distinction means SP2 has significant potential to deliver enhanced well-being benefits by providing a landscape capable of absorbing and supporting increased recreational activity without degrading its environmental quality. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | The supporting text for Strategic Principle 2 could be strengthened to acknowledge the role of Green Infrastructure on health, equality and social cohesion. |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1 & 3</u></p> <p>These Strategic Principles are assessed as having a neutral impact. It is recognised however that it could have a positive impact, but this would likely to be limited because the primary focus of the principles are on strengthening habitat networks and ecosystem services across the Gwent Levels. Noting the health and well-being benefits in the ISA objective 8 above and the provision of green infrastructure, the direct contribution to social cohesion is modest, though the narrative acknowledges</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | that improved access to nature and high-quality environments can help support community interaction. The guidance will also inform Local Development Plans, promoting a long-term vision for Green Infrastructure that may indirectly strengthen community connections. | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | | <u>Strategic Principle 2</u> The primary focus of SP2 is the protection and enhancement of habitat networks and ecosystem services within the Core. While its direct contribution to social cohesion is limited, the strengthened landscape character and improved environmental quality and the delivery of strategic green infrastructure can indirectly support community interaction by providing high-quality natural spaces. | | | | | | | |
| | | | Given the rural setting of the Core Zone, opportunities to promote social cohesion and equality are inherently more constrained than in areas closer to settlements. Nevertheless, by safeguarding the integrity of the Core Zone and maintaining access to a distinctive, well-managed natural environment, the principle creates conditions that can facilitate social and well-being benefits. The impact is therefore considered to be positive. | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | <u>Strategic Principle 1, 2 & 3</u> These Strategic Principles do not have a direct impact on issues such as fly-tipping or littering which is recognised as an issue across the Gwent Levels, as they focus is on environmental safeguarding, protection of ecosystem services and landscape enhancement. Responsibility for addressing fly tipping lies primarily with local authorities, which have their own policies and enforcement mechanisms to manage waste-related behaviours. | | | | | | | |
| | | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | <u>Strategic Principles 1, 2 & 3</u> | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | These Strategic Principles are expected to have a neutral impact on the future well-being of the Welsh language but do not directly strengthen or promote the Welsh language. Other requirements will ensure new signage or associated documentation will be available bilingually. (Also see ISA Objective 13 and cultural heritage) | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u></p> <p>SP1 is expected to have a positive impact on protecting and enhancing the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape. Its primary focus on safeguarding biodiversity networks and strengthening long-term ecosystem resilience at the landscape scale directly contributes to maintaining the characteristic qualities of the area. By enhancing the wider environment, the principle provides secondary benefits for protecting the landscape and seascape features that underpin the Gwent Levels' distinctiveness. The landscape and seascape of the Gwent Levels are subject to development pressures and impacts such as light pollution, SP1 outlines requirements which should assist with ensuring that any proposed development occurs in a sustainable way within the NNRA.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principles 2 & 3</u></p> <p>SP2 and SP3 have a similar impact to SP1 but it is more significant compared with the wider NNRA in SP1 over the longer term as they will contribute to a coherent and resilient landscape by strengthening the connections that support landscape identity in the Core and Recovery Zones.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u></p> <p>Make sure that the term 'ecosystem services' is understood throughout the Guidance. It may assist to make reference to benefits and services associated with</p> | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------|--------------------|---------|---|-------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations |
| | at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | <p>SP1 is expected to have a broadly positive influence on the historic environment, as it strengthens the distinctive environmental, cultural, and heritage qualities of the Gwent Levels. It is recognised that cultural services form an integral part of ecosystem services and green infrastructure. By safeguarding and protecting these assets it will ensure that the cultural and heritage value of the area is fully reflected in the management and enhancement of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 2</u></p> <p>SP2 has a similar impact to SP1 but greater the longer term as its focus is on protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape of the Core Zone. Owing to the Core Zone's existing protected status, the principle exerts a greater influence here by reinforcing habitat networks and supporting long-term ecosystem resilience, thereby helping to maintain the defining qualities of the Gwent Levels' character. The heritage assets of the Gwent Levels are subject to development pressures and the Principles outlines the requirements to shape sustainable development within the NNRA supporting a more resilient and well-protected landscape.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principle 3</u></p> <p>SP3 has a similar impact to SP1 but it is more significant over the longer term. Although the Recovery Zone has a smaller spatial area than the Core, it plays an important role in supporting the Core by maintaining and strengthening the wider landscape setting that contributes to cultural and historic significance. SP3 provides opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and improve ecological connectivity, which helps reinforce the characteristics and settings of heritage assets at a landscape scale. In doing so, SP3 complements the existing protections in the Core and contributes to a coherent and well-managed historic environment. The short-term impact is positive, and the long-term impact is significantly positive, as one of the key functions of the Recovery Zone is to support the Core and enhance the wider landscape framework that underpins the cultural identity of the Gwent Levels.</p> | | | | ecosystems. This may aid with the understanding of the importance of ecosystem resilience and its importance. | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| <p><u>Strategic Principles 1 & 3</u></p> <p>SP1 and SP3 have a positive impact on this objective. They support the wider objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improving ecosystem resilience and protecting habitats that perform</p> | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | | | |
| | | carbon sequestration across the Gwent Levels. The impact from SP3 is generally less pronounced than within the Core Zone due to the scale and functions within the Recovery Zone. . | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | | Strategic Principle 2 SP2 is expected to have a positive impact on reducing and storing greenhouse gas emissions recognising the functions and ecosystem services within the Core Zone. Protecting these habitats helps maintain the natural conditions that support long term carbon storage and strengthens the ecological processes that regulate the local climate. Over time this is likely to produce a significant positive impact as habitat condition improves and it will help support the long-term resilience of the Core Zone and the carbon benefits it provides. | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| Strategic Principles 1, 2 & 3 These Strategic Principles are expected to have a positive impact on protecting and improving water quality and water resources within the Gwent Levels. Its focus on safeguarding the drainage network and reen system directly supports the ecological and hydrological functions that underpin water management across the landscape. However, water quality within the reens is adversely affected by pollution and runoff from various sources, and many of these pressures arise from activities beyond the influence of the NNRA so the principles have limited impact on those factors. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Improvements in water quality are affected by changes in land management practices, industries , and regulatory processes operating at broader spatial scales. The principles contribute positively by preventing further degradation and supporting better management of sensitive water environments, the overall outcome is assessed as having a positive impact, recognising that meaningful improvements will be gradual and shaped by wider environmental and regulatory influences. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The impacts are seen to be more significant for SP2 and SP3 because the Gwent Levels water features (reens and ditches) are more dominant in this part of the landscape and closely tied to habitat connectivity. SP2 places stronger emphasis on protecting the reen system and associated drainage features as part of its wider aim to protect and enhance ecological networks. SP3 also recognises the | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Assessment of Strategic Principles | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | role the Recovery Zone has as a buffer to the Core Zone, which highlights the importance of sustaining water environments that support wider ecological networks. | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | | SP1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: L | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | SP2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | SP3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| <p><u>Strategic Principle 1</u> SP1 is expected to have a positive impact on the protection and sustainable management of soils and land within the Gwent Levels. By promoting sustainable land management practices and safeguarding and strengthening ecosystem resilience in the NNRA, it indirectly supports improved soil conditions and the long-term functioning of the landscape. There is a recognition of the interdependency of soils and geology to ecosystems and biodiversity. SP1's primary focus is on strengthening ecological connectivity and habitat networks rather than protecting geological features. Overall, the impact is assessed as positive but limited, reflecting that the principle contributes to better soil management through enhanced ecological function, while its direct influence on geology and soil remains minimal.</p> <p><u>Strategic Principles 2 & 3</u> These Strategic Principles will have the same impacts as SP1 however they are expected to have an increasing significant positive impact on the protection and sustainable management of soils and land within the Core and Recovery Zones. The stronger protective focus of SP2 provides clearer protections for maintaining soil condition and supporting land-use practices that enhance long-term ecological functions, and this is similar in the supporting area of the Recovery Zone and SP3.</p> | | | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| A1, A2, A3 and A4 will deliver positive benefits towards sustainable economic growth in the NNRA in the long term through reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience and by promoting more nature-based activity (recreation for instance). These Actions may constrain some forms of development, but no more than Policy 9 and PPW would do already as a result of applying the step-wise approach and the requirements that already exist around protected sites etc. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| A1, A2, A3 and A4 will deliver positive benefits towards encouraging and promoting sustainable tourism in the NNRA in the long term through reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience. | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|---|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| A1, A2, A3 and A4 will have a neutral impact on educational attainment as the focus of the Actions are around the enhancement and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems and therefore there isn't a direct link to educational attainment. | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| Although it is acknowledged that these Actions could have benefits around the reduction of air pollution, overall they will have little benefit on existing air quality due to the main source of air pollutants being located on the outskirts of the Levels. A1 is considered to have unknown long-term effects due to impacts on air quality being dependent on the exact location of the proposals for NBB within the NNRA. For instance, a scheme for NBB nearer to a road could improve air quality marginally. Recognising nuances in delivery, the Actions are anticipated to be indirectly positive, but several factors could impact the outcome making it unclear. | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| A1, A2, A3 and A4 will deliver immediate cumulative benefits towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss in the NNRA by reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience. The long-term benefits of the Actions should therefore be significant. | | | | | | | | Action 3. Remove references to named functionally linked sites from the Action itself (e.g. River Usk SAC). Replace with wording such as national, European and international designated sites which ensure that all sites are covered by the Action. Reference to named sites can be made by way of examples in the supporting text. | |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | |
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| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| A1, A2 and A3 will overall deliver positive benefits towards the reduction and management of flood risk in the NNRA as the considerations outlined in the Actions look to retain and enhance the natural environment of fluvial floodplains, seawalls and marshlands. Since A4 pertains to the protection of species, it will have no direct impact on flood risk (not excluding secondary effects). | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | A1 | Scale: | T/P: | Cert: | ST | MT | LT |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|-----------------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations | |
| 8 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | | SR | T | M | + | ++ | ++ | | |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | A1, A2 and A3 will overall have a significant positive benefit towards the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system as they will contribute towards the safeguarding and strengthening of biodiversity networks. Since A4 pertains to the protection of species, it will have no direct impact on the drainage system (not excluding secondary effects). | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | |
| | | A1, A2 and A4 will deliver very positive benefits towards physical, mental and social health and well-being in the NNRA in the long term through reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience. It is considered that as a secondary impact of this, health and well-being could be improved for local communities and visitors/tourists accessing the Gwent levels through biodiversity improvements and making the area more attractive as a visitor destination to explore nature. However, A3 which is focused specifically on the functional linkages between protected sites, would have no direct impact on physical, mental and social health and well-being (not excluding secondary impacts). | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT + | |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | A1, A2, A3 and A4 will have little impact on social cohesion and equality as the focus of the Actions are around the enhancement and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems. A1 could have a minor positive impact as a secondary | | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | | | effect as it is considered that some schemes for NBB such as through green infrastructure provision will improve social cohesion in terms of bringing local people together. | | | | |
| | | | | A1 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A2 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A3 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A4 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| A1, A2, A3 and A4 will have no impact on reducing fly-tipping and littering as the focus of the Actions are around the enhancement and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems. | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | | A1 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A2 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A3 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A4 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A1, A2, A3 and A4 will have no impact on the Welsh Language as the focus of the Actions are around the enhancement and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems. | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape | | | A1 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | | A2 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | | A3 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | | A4 Scale: SR T/P: T Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A1, A2 and A3 will deliver significant positive cumulative benefits towards the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape in the NNRA in the long term by reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks, ecosystem resilience. A2 is considered to be positive as it ensures proposals to evidence their consideration for maintaining and enhancing ecosystem resilience. Since A4 pertains to the protection of species, it will have no direct impact on the landscape and seascape (not excluding secondary effects). | | | | |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A1 and A2 will deliver positive benefits towards the Gwent Levels' historic environment in the NNRA at the landscape scale, benefitting the area's cultural significance as a secondary effect by safeguarding and strengthening the drainage network (a biodiversity network and heritage asset). A1 is considered to bring significant positive impacts as it reinforces land-use proposals demonstrating NBB. A3 is focused specifically on the functional linkages between protected sites, this would have no direct impact heritage assets (not excluding secondary effects). A4 is focused specifically on the protected habitats and species, this would have no direct impact on the historic environment (not excluding secondary effects). | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A1 and A2 will deliver some neutral and mainly positive benefit for reducing, storing and sequestering greenhouse gas emissions in the NNRA. This recognises the effect of A1 and A2 and enhancing ecosystem service such as the wetland and peatlands, marshes and carbon fixation which all work to reduce emissions and store/sequester carbon. A3 covers designated sites and therefore has no impact. It was considered that A3 and A4 are neutral compared to the benefits of other Actions, although plants species will have synergistic effects on emissions. | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |

| Action Grouping 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | A1, A2, A3 and A4 will deliver significant benefits towards improving water quality and water resources in the NNRA in the long term through reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks and ecosystem resilience. These benefits will become significant in time for A1 and A3. | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | | A1 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A2 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A3 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A4 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| A1 and A3 will deliver significant positive benefits and A2 positive benefits towards protecting geology and soil to promote sustainable land management resources in the NNRA in the long term through reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration for safeguarding and strengthening biodiversity networks and ecosystem resilience. Since A4 pertains to the protection of species, it may be marginally positively impactful regarding vegetation increasing soil health as a secondary effect but overall, it is considered to have a neutral impact. | | | | | | | | | |

| Action 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|---------------|--|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | | | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | | |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | | A5 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | A5 will deliver positive benefits towards sustainable economic growth in considering cumulative impacts of development on the Levels, strengthening the rural economy by ensuring holistic consideration of issues and delivering green growth. A5 may constrain some forms of development, but no more than Policy 9 and PPW would do already as a result of applying the step-wise approach and the requirements that already exist around protected sites etc. Furthermore, the consideration of cumulative impacts is already a recognised necessity as part of land-use planning decisions. Over the medium to long term, consider the Action will bed in and promote sustainable growth of the economy and therefore will have an overall positive impact. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | | A5 will deliver positive benefits for tourism in considering impacts from tourism development on the Levels. This will strengthen the delivery of potential tourism opportunities by ensuring holistic consideration of tourism related provision and reinforcing the need for land-use proposals to evidence their consideration. A5 may constrain some forms of development, but no more than Policy 9 and PPW would do already as a result of applying the step-wise approach and the requirements that already exist around protected sites etc. Furthermore, the consideration of cumulative impacts is already a recognised necessity as part of land-use planning decisions. Over the medium to long term, it is considered that the action will promote sustainable tourism growth and therefore will have an overall positive impact on provision of tourism opportunities. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A5 will have no impact on educational attainment as the focus of the Action is around in-combination effects of impacts. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to | | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |

| Action 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----------------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations | |
| | encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | A5 will have a positive impact on contributing to protecting and improving air quality as proposals will have to address and consider in-combination effects which could include impacts on air quality. | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | Change wording from in-combination to cumulative to avoid confusion and comparison with the HRA process. |
| 5 | A5 will positively impact in contributing to reversing biodiversity loss and effective land management by looking at the overall catchment in-combination when considering biodiversity and land use impacts and the need to address these effects. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being an overall significant positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| 6 | A5 will have a positive impact on contributing to reducing and managing flood risk by looking at the overall catchment in-combination when considering flooding impacts and the need to address these effects. | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| 7 | By considering in-combination impacts of development on the Levels, A5 will positively impact on contributing to managing and maintaining the Gwent Levels drainage system by looking at the overall catchment in-combination and addressing any issues when considering drainage impacts. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being an overall positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? | |
| 8 | The impacts of A5 are unknown as it cannot be ascertained what exactly the effect will be on health and well-being at a local level when details of any proposals are unknown. It is anticipated that impacts that arise would be positive as considering in-combination impacts and having to address them would not result in development being permitted that would be to the detriment of this objective. | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? | |
| 9 | The impacts of A5 are unknown as it cannot be ascertained what exactly the effect will be on social cohesion and equality at a local level when details of any proposals are unknown. It is anticipated that impacts that arise would be positive as considering in-combination impacts would not result in development being permitted that would be to the detriment of this objective. | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |

| Action 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|----------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations |
| | the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | A5 will have no impact on fly-tipping and littering as the focus of the action is around in-combination effects of impacts. | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | A5 will have no impact on the Welsh Language as the focus of the action is around in-combination effects of impacts, including on landscape character, visual amenity and open spaces. | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | Remove the text 'including cumulative impacts on landscape character, visual amenity and open spaces' from the Action and include instead in the supporting text to ensure the wider consideration of impacts. Ensure that the supporting text reference to also include cumulative impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services. |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | By looking at the in-combination impacts of development, A5 will positively impact on creating opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being overall significantly positive impacts over the medium to longer term. | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance | | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |

| Action 5 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | A5 will have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions as the focus of the Action is around in-combination effects of impacts. | | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | A5 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |

| Action 6 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | A6 will have a positive impact for economic development in potentially enabling development proposals within the three constituent local authorities to come forward whereas otherwise they might have been refused. It does this by helping to identify priorities within the Recovery Zone towards which NBB contributions (from locations elsewhere but excluding the Core Zone) could be targeted. This therefore potentially enables development proposals outside the Core Zone to fully meet their NBB obligations and enables those proposed developments to come forward whereas otherwise they may have been refused due to not being able to meet NBB in full in line with the requirements of PPW. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | A6 will have a positive impact for tourism development in potentially enabling development proposals within the three constituent local authorities to come forward whereas otherwise they might have been refused. It does this by helping to identify priorities within the Core Zone towards which NBB contributions (from locations elsewhere but excluding the Core Zone) could be targeted. This therefore potentially enables tourism development proposals outside the Core Zone to fully meet their NBB obligations and enables those proposed developments to come forward whereas otherwise they may have been refused due to not being able to meet NBB in full in line with the requirements of PPW. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | A6 will have no impact on educational attainment as the focus of the Action is around providing strategic opportunities for NBB. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | A6's impact on promoting opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality is uncertain. It is considered there are likely to be overall positive impacts in terms of delivering off-site net benefit for biodiversity (channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) | | | | | | | |

| Action 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|----------|--|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations |
| | improvement of air quality | into the Core Zone which could bring air quality benefits. However, the type and location of NBB schemes are uncertain. Although national planning policy already requires that air quality impacts are taken into account in decision making. | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | A6 will positively impact in contributing to reversing biodiversity loss and effective land management by supporting the delivery of the stepwise approach in PPW and providing potential opportunities for channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas (excluding from the Core) in the Core Zone. It is considered those effects are likely to increase over time, with there being an overall significant positive impact over the longer term within the Core itself. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | A6's impact on contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk is uncertain. It is considered there are likely to be some positive impacts on flood risk which could be achieved as a result of delivering off-site net benefit for biodiversity (channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Core Zone. However, the type and location of any schemes to address and manage flood risk are uncertain. | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Core Zone, A6 could positively impact in contributing to managing and maintaining the Gwent Levels drainage system as biodiversity within the Levels contributes towards effective management of its drainage. It is considered that there would be an overall positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 would positively impact in contributing to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being as biodiversity within the Levels does positively impact on people's health and well-being. This Action is likely to result in provision of additional (or improvements to existing) green infrastructure which has health and well-being benefits. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being an overall positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | | |

| Action 6 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | which social cohesion and equality can be improved | By providing the opportunities to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 will positively impact in encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved. In delivering additional biodiversity benefits in the Core Zone, this can lead to opportunities for communities and local people to use the Levels for the benefit of social cohesion. This Action is likely to result in provision of additional (or improvements to existing) green infrastructure. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being an overall positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A6 will have no impact on fly-tipping and littering as the focus of the action is around providing strategic opportunities for net biodiversity benefit. | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A6 will have no impact on the Welsh Language as the focus of the action is around providing strategic opportunities for net biodiversity benefit. | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascapes | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 could positively impact in creating opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascapes. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being overall significant positive impacts in the longer term. | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 could positively impact in creating opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment for the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being overall significant positive impacts in the longer term. | | | | | | | | |

| Action 6 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | the area's cultural significance | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zore (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 may protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action, through NBB contributions, will allow for this. Therefore, the Action's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zore (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 may protect and improve water quality and water resources. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action through NBB will allow for this. Therefore, the Action's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | | A6 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Core Zore (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A6 may protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action through NBB contributions will allow for this. Therefore, the Action's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------|------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A7 to A10 will deliver positive and neutral benefits towards sustainable economic growth over the long term. A7 and A8 are considered to have a positive impact on the rural economy in the short to long term by ensuring the landscape and features and supporting habitats of the Core Zone are given due consideration in development proposals creating attractive and sustainable places to work and invest. It should however be remembered that such developments are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. A9 and A10 relate to water availability and hydrology and agricultural management of the reens and ditches . Therefore, they are not considered to have any direct impact on economic growth and the rural economy. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A7 to A10 will deliver positive and neutral benefits towards encouraging and promoting sustainable tourism opportunities over the long term. | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | <p>A7 and A8 are considered to have positive impacts on sustainable tourism opportunities by ensuring the landscape and features and supporting habitats of the Core Zone are given due consideration in tourism related development proposals. The consideration of features and supporting habitats could have a positive impact on tourism opportunities in the shorter term by ensuring no habitats are lost where people may visit the Gwent Levels due to those features.</p> <p>It should however be remembered that such developments are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development.</p> <p>A9 and A10 relate to water availability and hydrology and agricultural management of the reens and ditches and. Therefore, they are not considered to have any direct impact on the provision of sustainable tourism opportunities.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A7 to A10 will have no impact in increasing educational attainment within the Gwent Levels as they focus on the management of the land, opportunities for NBB and the protection of protected sites at the landscape scale. | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A7 to A10 will deliver positive or neutral benefits towards encouraging the protection and improvement of air quality over the long term. | | | | | | |
| A7 and A8 are considered to have a positive impact on encouraging the protection and improvement of air quality by ensuring the landscape and features and supporting habitats of the Core Zone are given due consideration in | | | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | <p>development proposals and recognises the areas designations, thus supporting potential improvements in air quality.</p> <p>It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development.</p> <p>A9 relates to water availability and hydrology. It is considered this Action will not have a direct effect on air quality in the Core Zone as it is about water availability and hydrology. It is recognised that there are secondary effects of sequestration from carbon in the atmosphere into the water could improve the air quality slightly.</p> <p>A10 will have no direct impact on air quality as it focuses on the management of the reens and ditches.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | <div style="background-color: red; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: red; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: red; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: red; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | <p>A7 to A10 will deliver strong positive benefits towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss and contributing to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030.</p> <p>A8 and A10 are considered would have a strong positive impact on reversing biodiversity loss and contributing to effective land, water and sea management for nature in the short term by immediately ensuring consideration of effects at the landscape scale and the management of the reens and ditches in the Core Zone are given in development proposals. In respect of A10, it is considered this would ensure the appropriate management of the reens and ditches which would result in a significant positive effect for biodiversity.</p> <p>A7 is considered would have increasingly significant positive impacts on reversing biodiversity loss and contributing to effective land, water and sea management for nature by ensuring the loss of features and supporting habitats are avoided</p> <p>A9 ensures water availability and hydrology are considered in development proposals. This will contribute towards the aims of the objective as water features support biodiversity and land, water and sea management.</p> | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | A7 to A10 will deliver overall positive benefits towards contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk, including the retaining of traditional forms of flood risk management – a traditional function of the reen and ditch water system. | | | | | | | |
| | | A7 is considered would have positive impacts on contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk over the short to medium term by ensuring features and supporting habitats are not lost from the impact of development proposals. It is recognised habitats can contribute to flood risk management. | | | | | | | |
| | | A8 and A10 are considered will have positive impacts on contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk by the consideration of effects at the landscape scale and the management of reens and ditches. | | | | | | | |
| | | A9 ensures water availability and hydrology are considered as part of any development proposals. This will positively contribute towards the aims of the objective significantly over the long term as the appropriate consideration of water features will directly impact on ensuring effective flood risk management. | | | | | | | |
| | | It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| | | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | | <p>A7 to A10 will deliver significant positive benefits towards contributing to the maintenance and management of the Gwent Levels drainage system over the long term.</p> <p>For A7 and A9 which relate to the avoidance of loss of features, supporting habitats and water availability and hydrology within the Core Zone, it is expected the benefits will increase over the medium to long term because the cumulative impacts of these Actions will result in greater longer-term benefits to maintenance and management of the drainage system. Benefits are also expected to increase as a result of A8 which is about consideration of landscape scale impacts on the Core Zone, with significant benefits considered to apply during the long-term.</p> <p>Retaining agricultural management practices to the reens and ditches within the Core Zone as a result of A10 will have a significant positive impact on the drainage system.</p> <p>It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | <p>A7 and A10 will have no impact in contributing to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being. The avoidance of the loss of features and supporting habitats as well as the management of reens and ditches for the Core Zone under those Actions would have no direct impact towards delivery of this objective.</p> <p>A8 will have a positive impact, increasing over the longer term in contributing to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being. By considering the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Core Zone across its landscape this should increasingly positively impact on its landscape and therefore people being able to use it for health and wellbeing purposes.</p> <p>A9 will have a positive impact in contributing to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being. It could result in increased connectivity for water related features, including habitats and species, which could result in associated health and well-being benefits for people using the Core Zone through for example a potential increase in recreation.</p> | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations |
| | | It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST + | MT + |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |
| | | <p>A7 and A10 will have no impact in encouraging opportunities to improve social cohesion and equality. The consideration of features and supporting habitats as well as the management of reens and ditches under those Actions would have no direct impact towards delivery of this objective.</p> <p>A8 will have a positive impact in contributing to an improvement in social cohesion and equality. By considering the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Core Zone across its landscape in development proposals, this should increasingly positively impact on its landscape, enabling Improvements to social cohesion and equality.</p> <p>A9 will have a positive impact in encouraging opportunities to improve social cohesion and. It could result in increased connectivity for water related features, including habitats and species connectivity, which could provide opportunities for people to use the Core Zone through for example a potential increase in recreation, enabling improvements to social cohesion and equality.</p> <p>It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development.</p> | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | A7 to A10 will have no impact on promoting opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering within the Gwent Levels as they focus on the management of the land, hydrology and water, opportunities for NBB and the protection of protected sites at the landscape scale. | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| A7 to A10 will not contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language within the Gwent Levels, as they focus on the management of the land, hydrology and water, opportunities for NBB and the protection of protected sites at the landscape scale. | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| By implementing actions A7 to A10 it is considered that these will all have a significant positive benefits towards creating opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape due to them having regards at the landscape scale, avoiding loss of habitats, and enhancing and protecting water features for the Core Zone. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|------|-----------------|-------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | Recommendations | |
| | landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | A7 to A10 will all significantly contribute towards creating opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale. It is considered positive impacts will apply immediately, with the impact increasing to significant in the medium to long term. This is due to them having regards at the landscape scale, avoiding loss of habitats, and enhancing and protecting water features for the Core Zone. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | A8 and A9 will strongly contribute towards protecting and enhancing opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels in the long term. It is considered significant positive impacts will be delivered under A9 in the medium to long term as that is about water availability and hydrology and also functional linkages across the Core Zone which should protect and enhance potential opportunities for carbon sequestration in a shorter time (habitat types across the Levels provide good conditions for sequestration). As A8 is about the functioning of the Core Zone at a landscape scale this will also provide significant benefits in respect of helping to protect and enhance carbon sequestration opportunities at this landscape scale. | | | | | | | |
| | | A7 will provide benefits towards protecting and enhancing opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels in the short to long term. As this Action is about the consideration of features and supporting habitats, the extent to which they can contribute towards the objective of addressing emissions is likely to not be as extensive as under A8 and A9. | | | | | | | |
| | | A10 is about the management of reens and ditches which will not contribute towards the objective of addressing emissions. | | | | | | | |
| | | It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A8 | Scale: | T/P: | Cert: | ST | MT | LT |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Amend the third point in Action 9 so that it is about the water network | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|--|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations |
| 16 | quality and water resources | | | SR | T | M | + | + | ++ | specifically rather than connectivity more generally. This is consistent with the purpose of the Action which is specifically about water. |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | <p>A7 to A10 will significantly contribute towards protecting and improving water quality and water resources in the long term as they ensure developments have to have regards at the landscape scale, avoiding loss of habitats, and enhancing and protecting water features for the Core Zone.</p> <p>It is considered that A7, A9 and A10 will deliver significant positive impacts towards meeting the objectives in the medium to long term. By implementing actions that avoid the loss of habitats, nature and water features for the Core Zone, these will all strongly support improvements to water quality and resources. It is considered that A9 could be clarified by making it directly linked to water network connectivity in line with the purpose of the Action being specific to water matters.</p> <p>A8 will deliver positive impacts that will increase and become significant in the long term. This is due to A8 being about the functioning of the Core Zone at a landscape scale which could provide strong benefits in respect of improving water quality and resources. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | | A7 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | A7 to A10 will all contribute positively towards protecting geology and soil and promoting the sustainable use and management of land in the long term. A9 and A10 will deliver significant positive impacts towards meeting the objective in the medium to long term. These specifically address water availability and hydrology and management of reens and ditches in the Core Zone which will contribute towards the objective in a significantly positive way. |
| | | | A8 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ | |
| | | | A9 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | A10 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |

| Action Grouping 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | A7 and A8 will deliver positive effect that will become significant in the long term. This is due to these Actions being about consideration of impacts at a landscape scale, the avoidance of loss and the protection and enhancement of features and supporting habitats in the Core Zone. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |

| Action 11 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| | | The impacts of A11 are uncertain. There are considered to be potential positive impacts, particularly due to the requirement to frontload information and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based which will help to ensure the enhancement and increase the resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals, potentially facilitating appropriate sustainable development. It should however be remembered that such developments are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + |
| | | The impacts of A11 are uncertain. There are considered to be potential positive impacts, particularly to developers and other stakeholders in respect of requiring frontloading of information with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals, potentially resulting in facilitating sustainable tourism development. It should however be remembered that such developments are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | The Action will have no impact on educational attainment as it is about the requirement to frontload information and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based which will help to ensure the enhancement and increase resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites. | | | | | | | |

| Action 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|----------|---|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | Recommendations |
| | Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? | | |
| | The impacts of A11 on the promotion of opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality are uncertain. There are considered to be potential positive impacts, particularly to developers and other stakeholders in respect of requiring frontloading of information with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and designated sites. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals, potentially resulting in development that fully takes into account and addresses air quality impacts. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which A11 will result in this and therefore contribute towards delivery of the objective. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | To move the Action under Strategic Principle 1 to ensure the wider application to and support the broader benefits for the Gwent Levels as an NNRA, as afforded by Policy 9 of Future Wales. This is particularly so given that there is a general presumption against development in the Core Zone due to its statutory protections and that the purpose of identifying the NNRA area is to help increase the resilience of this wider area including the Core. Therefore, the Action would deliver more benefits if applied to the NNRA as a whole. | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | | |

| Action 11 | | | | | | | | Recommendations | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|---------------|---|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|----------|----------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | | | |
| | management of flood risk | | | A11 would have a positive impact on reducing and managing flood risk by requiring frontloading of information and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based. This will help ensure the enhancement and increase resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals on the resilience of the Core Zone and therefore ensuring flood risk and management is addressed. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ | |
| | | | | A11 will have a significantly positive impact on the contribution to the management and maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system by requiring frontloading of information and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based. This will help to enhance the resilience of the Core Zone and designated sites. This would help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals on the resilience of the Core Zone and therefore it will directly address drainage implications. It is considered those effects are likely to be positive and strengthening to significantly positive over the medium to longer term. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A11 will have no impact in contributing to an improvement in physical, mental and social well-being. Implementing delivery mechanisms with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and designated sites by requiring frontloading of information and ensuring mitigation measure are evidence based as part of development proposals will not directly contribute to this objective. It is recognised there may be indirect or secondary effects on health and well-being resulting from this consideration; for example, enhancements and mitigation arising from proposals could have some positive benefits in due course for health and well-being, including from the provision of green infrastructure. However, these benefits would not be as a direct result of the objective. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | | A11 will have no impact in encouraging opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved. Implementing delivery mechanisms with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and designated sites by requiring frontloading of information and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based as part of development proposals will not directly contribute to this objective. It is recognised there may be indirect or secondary effects on social cohesion and equality resulting from development proposals; for example, enhancements and mitigation arising from proposals could have some positive benefits in due course for social cohesion and equality, including | | | | | | | |

| Action 11 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | from the provision of green infrastructure. However, these benefits would not be as a direct result of the objective. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascapes | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |

| Action 11 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---------------|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | the area's cultural significance | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | A11 will have a positive impact on protecting and enhancing opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels by requiring frontloading of information with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals on the resilience of the Core Zone and could create opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | A11 will have a positive impact on protecting and improving water quality and water resources by requiring frontloading of information with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals on the resilience of the Core Zone and therefore it will ensure proposals look to protect and improve water quality and water resources. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | A11 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | A11 will have a positive impact on protecting geology and soil and promoting the sustainable use and management of land by requiring frontloading of information with regards to enhancing resilience of the Core Zone and its designated sites and ensuring mitigation measures are evidence based. This should help to create certainty with regards to assessing impacts of development proposals on the resilience of the Core Zone and therefore it will ensure proposals look to protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land. It should however be remembered that such contributions are likely to be few as the scope for development is extremely limited within the Core Zone as it is already covered by a large number of statutory designations where there is a general presumption against development. | | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|------|-----------------|--|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations | |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST +/- | MT + | LT + | |
| A12 and A13 will have long term positive impacts on sustainable economic growth and the strengthening the rural economy of the Recovery Zone by ensuring land-use proposals evidence how they will safeguard and enhance the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguard and enhance Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + | |
| A12 and A13 will have long term positive impacts on the promotion of sustainable tourism opportunities in the Recovery Zone by ensuring land-use proposals for tourism evidence how they will safeguard and enhance the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguard and enhance Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long term benefits will come for sustainable tourism as ecological networks and ecosystem services are safeguarded and strengthened improving the resilience of the Core Zone and its desirability as a destination. Likewise, with the safeguarding, restoration and enhancement of habitats and species in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 | |

| Action Grouping 3 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|---|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | A12 and A13 will have a neutral impact on educational attainment as the Actions are around enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | Due to the smaller land area of the Recovery Zone, A12 and A13 will have a neutral impact on air quality outside of any synergistic effects in relation to the Core Zone. | | | | | | | It is considered that the wording of A13 could be generalised to protected species and ensure it is about protection rather than safeguarding for protected sites |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ++ | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | A12 and A13 will have significant positive benefits to halting and reversing biodiversity loss in the Recovery Zone in the short and long term as both Actions will ensure the safeguarding and enhancement of the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. It is considered that the wording of A13 could be generalised to protected species and ensure it is about protection rather than safeguarding for protected sites. This would also achieve consistency of approach with other Actions. | | | | | | | |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | A12 and A13 will have long term positive impacts towards reducing and managing flood risk in the Recovery Zone. The Actions will support the enhancement of the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and look to safeguard and enhance Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery zone which would include the delivery of strategic green infrastructure and as a result such actions will bring flood management benefits.. | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and maintenance of the | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |

| Action Grouping 3 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | Gwent Levels drainage system | A12 and A13 have significant positive impacts on the Gwent Levels drainage system in the long term due to the cumulative effects of protecting and restoring habitats in the Recovery Zone and enhancing and safeguarding connectivity to and the resilience of the Core Zone through the green system, an ecological network. | | | | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | A12 and A13 will have positive impacts on physical, mental and social health and well-being in the Recovery Zone as a secondary effect of improving the ecological networks and ecosystem services. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A12 and A13 will have a neutral impact on social cohesion and equality in the Recovery Zone outside of any secondary effects as the Actions are around enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A12 and A13 will have a neutral impact on reduction fly-tipping and littering in the Recovery Zone as the Actions are around enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A12 and A13 will have a neutral impact on the Welsh Language in the Recovery Zone as the Actions are around enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |

| Action Grouping 3 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--------------------|--------|---------|------|-------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and distinctive landscape and seascape | A12 and A13 will have a significant impact in the long term on the Gwent Levels' unique landscape and seascape in the Recovery Zone due to the cumulative effects of the Actions enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT ++ | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | | A12 and A13 could have long term positive impacts in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Recovery Zone as a synergistic effect of enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | |
| | | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A12 and A13 could have significant impacts in terms of improving water quality and water resources in the Recovery Zone in the long term as the Actions are around enhancing the connectivity between habitats, species | | | | | | |

| Action Grouping 3 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguarding and enhancing Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | |
| 16 | To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | | A12 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | A13 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | A12 and A13 will have a significant positive impact on the sustainable use and management of land in the Recovery Zone in the long term as the Actions seek to enhance the connectivity between habitats, species and ecosystem services for the Core Zone and safeguard and enhance Section 7 priority habitats and semi-natural habitats in the Recovery Zone. | | | | | | | |

| Action 14 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| 1 | To promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen the resilience of the rural economy across the Gwent Levels | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A14 will have a positive impact for economic development in potentially enabling development proposals within the three constituent local authorities to come forward whereas otherwise they might have been refused. It does this by helping to identify priorities within the Recovery Zone towards which NBB contributions (from locations elsewhere but excluding the Core Zone) could be targeted. This therefore potentially enables development proposals outside the Core Zone to fully meet their NBB obligations and enables those proposed developments to come forward whereas otherwise they may have been refused due to not being able to meet NBB in full in line with the requirements of PPW. | | | | | | |
| 2 | To encourage and promote sustainable tourism opportunities | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | A14 will have positive impacts for encouraging and promoting sustainable tourism opportunities in potentially enabling development proposals within the three constituent local authorities to come forward whereas otherwise they might have been refused. It does this by helping to identify priorities within the Recovery Zone towards which NBB contributions (from locations elsewhere but excluding the Core Zone) could be targeted. This therefore potentially enables tourism development proposals outside the Core Zone to fully meet their NBB obligations and | | | | | | |

| Action 14 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | | enables those proposed developments to come forward whereas otherwise they may have been refused due to not being able to meet NBB in full in line with the requirements of PPW. | | | | | | | |
| 3 | To encourage opportunities to increase educational attainment across all age groups by using the Gwent Levels landscape as a natural learning resource | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | A14 will have no impact on educational attainment as the focus of the Action is around providing strategic opportunities for NBB. | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | To promote opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | A14's impact on promoting opportunities to encourage the protection and improvement of air quality is uncertain. It is considered there are likely to be overall positive impacts in terms of delivering off-site net benefit for biodiversity (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Recovery Zone which could bring air quality benefits. However, the type and location of NBB schemes are uncertain. Although national planning policy already requires that air quality impacts are taken into account in decision making. | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the protection and effective management of 30% of our land, freshwater and sea for nature by 2030 | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | A14 will positively impact in contributing to reversing biodiversity loss and effective land management by supporting the delivery of the stepwise approach in PPW and providing potential opportunities for providing off-site net benefit for biodiversity (channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Recovery Zone. It is considered those effects are likely to impact in the short term, with there being an overall very positive impact over the longer term. | | | | | | | | Remove references to Action 6 from the Action. Instead, cross refer to Action 6 within the supporting text. |
| 6 | To contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | A14's impact on contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk is uncertain. It is considered there are likely to be some positive impacts on flood risk which could be achieved as a result of delivering off-site net benefit for biodiversity (channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Recovery Zone. However, the type and location of any schemes to address and manage flood risk are uncertain. | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | To contribute to the management and | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| Action 14 | | | | | | | | Recommendations |
|---------------|--|-----------------|---------------|--|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | |
| | maintenance of the Gwent Levels drainage system | | | By providing the opportunities to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core) in the Recovery Zone, A14 would positively impact in contributing to managing and maintaining the Gwent Levels drainage system as biodiversity within the Levels contributes towards effective management of its drainage. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being an overall positive impact over the longer term. | | | | |
| 8 | To contribute to an improvement in physical, mental and social health and well-being | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | To encourage opportunities within which social cohesion and equality can be improved | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT + |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | To promote opportunities for the reduction of fly-tipping and littering | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | To contribute towards the future well-being of the Welsh Language | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: H | ST 0 | MT 0 | LT 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | To create opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the Gwent Levels' unique and | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Action 14 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | | | | | Recommendations |
| | distinctive landscape and seascape | | | | | | | |
| 13 | To create opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale, including its heritage assets, their settings, and the area's cultural significance | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST + | MT + | LT ++ |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Recovery Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A14 could positively impact in creating opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment for the Gwent Levels at a landscape scale. It is considered those effects will take place immediately, with there being overall significant positive impacts in the longer term. | | | | | | |
| 14 | To protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Recovery Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A14 may protect and enhance opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced, stored and sequestered across the Gwent Levels. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action through NBB contributions will allow for this. Therefore A14's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | | | | |
| 15 | To protect and improve water quality and water resources | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: M | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |
| | | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Recovery Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A14 may protect and improve water quality and water resources. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action through NBB contributions will allow for this. Therefore A14's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | | | | |
| 16 | | A14 | Scale: SR | T/P: T | Cert: L | ST ? | MT ? | LT ? |

| Action 14 | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| ISA Objective | Future Baseline | Policy/option | Summary of Effects | Recommendations |
| To protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land | By providing the opportunity to deliver off-site net benefit for biodiversity in the Recovery Zone (by channelling off-site NBB contributions from elsewhere in the three local authority areas - excluding from the Core), A14 may protect geology and soil and promote the sustainable use and management of land. However, it cannot be said for certain the extent to which the Action through NBB contributions will allow for this. Therefore A14's impact on this objective is uncertain. | | | |

All Integrated Assessment Scoring