Appendix 2

South East Wales Resilient Uplands: Core Delivery Plans

Delivery Plan Title: a) NRMP Update	
Location	Throughout the Project Area.
Why the project is necessary	A delivery partner will be appointed at the outset of the project to work with us to refine and update NRMP practical proposals and develop a robust monitoring and evaluation methodology based upon the principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.
What we propose to do	Working closely with NRW, refine and update practical proposals for specific actions based on the NRMP derived Delivery Plans within and beyond the current scheme in partnership with stakeholders, including an audit of Glastir arrangements on Partnership commons. Specific emphasis will be placed on carbon sequestration and landscape crime.
Aims	➢ Consult with SE Wales Resilient Uplands Steering Group to develop brief and recruit specialist consultant (s). ➢ Develop robust monitoring and evaluation methodology based upon the principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic aspects of the project along with other benefits such as improved health outcomes. ➢ Refine and update practical proposals for specific actions based on the NRMP.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Delivery Plans are up to date ➢ Project activities are appropriate ➢ The Partnership is adaptive ➢ The Project delivers
Delivery Plan Title:b) Landscape Crime	
Timescale	Ongoing throughout 10 year plan
Location	Throughout the whole study area.
Why the project is necessary	A complete section of the NRMP was devoted to tackling landscape crime. This is because one of the biggest barriers to the delivery of sustainable natural resource management is the prevalence of landscape crime and antisocial behaviour. These crimes, often carried out by a very small section of the local communities, include arson, fly-tipping and illegal off-roading. The recognition of the problem resulted in a workshop being held in March 2016 where agreement was reached on the need for a multi-agency response to the problem. A number of priority actions were

	identified and these will begin to be delivered over the coming months by the Partners who include: NRW, Gwent Police, SWF&RS, commons associations, TCBC, BGCBC, CCBC, Fly-tipping Action Wales, National Farmers Union Cymru, Farmers Union Wales, Treadlightly! UK. On-the-whole, upland landscape crime is not location specific and therefore, tackling it effectively in one area simply forces perpetrators into neighbouring areas or beyond. A regional approach is therefore required with a particular focus on prevention through awareness raising and education. This approach will be more sustainable by harbouring a sense of pride in the local area and social responsibility amongst potential perpetrators. Throughout 2016/17 members of the Partnership have continued to meet with local politicians and hill farmers to take the NRMP Landscape Crime Toolkit forward. Opinions vary as to the type of measures that are effective, and it is clear that most evidence is anecdotal.
What we propose to do	The Partnership has prioritised the following actions from the Toolkit: 1. Preparation of a Communication Strategy *Commission a study that:* i. Develops a communication strategy including a publicity campaign clarifying the law and consequences for perpetrators of landscape crime. ii. Maximises the use of social media, volunteers and Police resources to communicate messages about landscape crime, including a proposed SE Wales 'Commons Watch' Scheme with Car Park Watch-style monitoring if appropriate. iii. Identifies ways in which the Wales Hill Farming Training Scheme can be used as an education tool to combat landscape crime. iv. Examines options for sharing information on crime apps. 2. Development of a Commons Watch Scheme i. Using two badly affected common land areas as pilots, develop innovative but practical multi-agency Landscape Crime Management Plans for each common. ii. Provide three training sessions for farmers / volunteers in the use of social media and crime apps. iii. Foster links with other national initiatives. iv. Design a Commons Watch logo. 3. Commons Watch Launch

	i. Launch and publicise Commons Watch. ii. Work with police to facilitate a minimum of three high profile multi-agency operations a year. iii. Facilitate two Wales Hill Farming Training Scheme landscape crime courses for identified participants. iv. Engage in wider Partner-led education and community outreach activities.
Aims	➢ To deliver a measurable reduction in landscape crime. ➢ Develop best practice in relation to reducing landscape ➢ Facilitate a cross boundary, joined up approach. ➢ Emphasise prevention and education.
Specific management objectives	➢ 1 Communication Strategy ➢ To be the first in the UK to design Landscape Crime Management Plans: at least 2 pilot plans for the worst affected commons. ➢ Launch and publicise a Commons Watch scheme. ➢ At least 1 high profile multi-agency operation a year during project. ➢ Adapt Hill Farming Training Scheme to address landscape crime (see separate plan).
Priority Areas	To be identified in Year 1 of the project.
Desired Outcomes	➢ A measureable reduction in landscape crime ➢ Restore community pride in the local area and engender social responsibility amongst potential perpetrators ➢ A reduction in frequency and impacts of landscape crime in the uplands as well as increased levels of outreach into local communities to make people aware of the consequences of landscape crime ➢ The SE Wales uplands will be a safer and more pleasant place to work, live in and enjoy. ➢ There will be an increase in both direct and indirect income to deprived communities ➢ The scheme will also highlight diversionary activities so that perpetrators are attracted to a legitimate – but fun – activity, and there will be changed perceptions of the uplands amongst local communities ➢ The project will add value to existing Police capacity to deal with anti-social behaviour in remote upland areas ➢ Better channels of communication, improving access to information and by signposting victims to sources of support. ➢ Increased knowledge of how to tackle the problem ➢ Commoners encouraged to stay on the hill

Delivery Plan Title: c) Regional Development of Sustainable Tourism and Recreation	
Timescale	Years 1-10
Location	Throughout the Project Area
Why the project is necessary	Recreational activities common in the uplands of South-east Wales include hiking, dog-walking, hang gliding and the use of off-road vehicles such as scrambler bikes and quad bikes in designated sites (use of the latter elsewhere is largely illegal). However, the use of the commons by members of the public can sometimes conflict with the main purpose of the commons: the grazing of livestock. The greatest source of conflict in terms of recreational activities is the illegal use of off-road vehicles, which churn up the ground and cause disturbance to livestock and wildlife. Dog-walking can also cause conflict, as dogs off the leash in the uplands may worry sheep. Tourism is already highly concentrated on the World Heritage Site, which is nationally promoted. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership did some work to develop and advertise walking routes in the surrounding uplands; this can be built upon and extended to cover wider areas. The opportunities for tourism have to be seen in the regional geographical context of the competing Brecon Beacons National Park, The Wye Valley AONB, the Glamorgan coast and the South Wales cities.
What we propose to do	With the exception of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, many people may not be aware of the value of the uplands of South-east Wales for tourism and recreation. Designated sites such as the Brecon Beacons National Park, Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Glamorgan coast and the South Wales cities receive many visitors each year – these areas could be targeted for advertising the South-east Wales uplands. Further work should also be carried out to develop walking routes and advertise recreational opportunities. The purpose of this delivery plan is to enhance the value of the uplands to the local community and visitors to the area, and to promote the sustainable use of the uplands in a manner that does not conflict with the use of the uplands for grazing. It is proposed to raise awareness of the commons locally and nationally as a valuable resource for outdoor recreation. Increased outdoor recreation in the uplands will have the added benefits of improving health and generating income for the local economy. Holding events such as farmer-led walks, foraging for wild food, biodiversity blitzes, bird watching events, fungal forays, etc. can also promote local and wider interest. Some of these will be delivered by Partnership staff. Opportunities to develop adventure activities will also be explored. In particular, the Partnership will work with existing providers to develop a package of activities around the theme of ‘active heritage’ which aims to increase

	understanding of both natural and built heritage through adventure activities. We will also deliver a South-east Wales uplands photography competition, with outputs showcased on social media made available to activity providers. As part of this activity, the Partnership will undertake an assessment of new or under exploited opportunities and consultants will assess the recreational carrying capacity of each common (CS 2). We will also adapt the Blaenavon World Heritage Site 'Common Sense' leaflet to the SE Wales region. See: http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Publications/WorldHeritageSite/ForgottenLandscapes/CommonSense.pdf
Aims	The main aim of this plan is to encourage recreation and tourism in the area and use of the uplands by the local community to benefit the local economy and to promote healthy lifestyles. This must be balanced with managing disturbance to wildlife and agriculture. This will be achieved through: ➢ Ensuring local and more general South Wales population are informed about potential for recreation including walking, mountain bike trails and other outdoor activities. ➢ Informing local populations of the value of commons through winter evening lectures and guided walks. ➢ Developing volunteering opportunities. ➢ Educating school children about importance of commons, their history, wildlife and risks from fire. ➢ Advertising key features of interest through Visit Wales and local authority websites.
Specific management objectives	➢ Identify target audiences for tourism and recreation. These will include those with interest in mining heritage, wildlife and outdoor activities such a walking and mountain biking. ➢ Identify sustainable transport networks and routes and enhance/gap-fill if needed ➢ Obtain high quality photographs of the commons and their specific interest for use in publicity ➢ Creation of walks & activity programmes for each common ➢ Adapt Common Sense leaflet to the wider SE Wales region
Priority Areas	Whole study area.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Increased appropriate use of uplands by local community ➢ Improved health of local population through physical activity ➢ Greater appreciation of natural environment and wildlife by local population ➢ Greater sense of pride of place, which would hopefully lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour such as off-roading and fly-tipping ➢ Increased local income from recreation and tourism
Delivery Plan Title: d) Heather Management	

Timescale	Years 1-10
Location	Heathland occurs throughout study area so there are opportunities to enhance or restore it at all locations. Opportunities for improving the connectivity of heathland throughout the study area are shown in Figures 57-61 of the NRMP.
Why the project is necessary	Upland heathland has more than 25% cover of dwarf shrub species such as heather, bilberry or heath species and may occur in wet or dry soils. It is reasonably widespread on the upland commons, especially in the north and east of the study area, with 2600 ha of dry heath and 340 ha of wet heath, with another 1315 ha mapped as acid grassland/heathland mosaic. It is generally ungrazed or lightly grazed, usually by sheep. Heavy grazing by sheep, especially in winter and spring, tends to result in loss of heathland to acid grassland. Repeated burning and air pollution through increased nitrogen have also resulted in changes to grassland. Bracken, gorse or birch scrub encroachment have also resulted in loss of heathland. The uplands of South-east Wales contain large tracts of heathland of various forms, including dry dwarf shrub heath, wet heath, and mosaic habitats of heath/acid grassland. However, many of these areas are now in poor condition. Biological surveys of Common Land conducted in 1993 (Crowther & Aitchison, 1994) (Heppingstall, et al., 1991) noted a high intensity of sheep grazing which had led to deterioration in heathland habitat quality, with signs of selective grazing of heather by sheep. However, the reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), specifically the introduction of quotas and the decoupling of farm payments from stock numbers, have brought about changes in stocking densities. Whilst over-grazing is still certainly a problem in many areas, it has been found that in some cases, under-grazing has become an issue (Cumulus Consultants Ltd, 2012).
What we propose to do	<u>Restoration</u> ➢ A range of heathland restoration techniques are available to cover the range of situations (British Gas 1988; Natural England 1992, 2001). ➢ A key factor in heathland restoration is reducing or removing grazing pressure. If heather plants occur at more than 4 plants per square metre, a dramatic increase in heather cover can occur within five years when grazing is substantially reduced or removed. The approach also works at lower dwarf shrub frequencies but takes longer to achieve. ➢ Optimum starting vegetation for restoration is where dwarf shrubs still occur (but form less than 25% of the canopy), and acid grassland/heathland mosaics. ➢ For sites which may have recently been heathland, soil disturbance to expose the seed bank may work provided grazing in minimised for the initial recovery. ➢ For areas with no dwarf shrub seed bank, spreading seed or heather cuttings in early autumn may be required. Machinery may need to be leased to collect seed from heathland.

	➢ In the event that suitable material becomes available from development, it may be possible to spread topsoil and its seedbank from heathland sites. ➢ Some areas of marshy grassland now dominated by purple moor-grass were previously mixed heathland; these should be restored using cattle grazing. ➢ For sites with bracken cover and an understory of dwarf shrubs, control of the bracken may be required (see linked Delivery Plan). ➢ For areas of wet heathland which have been drained, the drains can be blocked. Where the wet heathland occurs over shallow peat, blocking drains will have benefits for soil carbon storage (see also linked Bog Restoration Delivery Plan / Scrapes and Pools Delivery Plan). ➢ Red grouse prefer a mosaic of different ages of heather; the mosaics will be produced through a range of methods such as cutting, grazing and possibly controlled burning. <u>Management</u> ➢ Over mature heathland with tall leggy heather and little or no regeneration can be managed by cutting or burning. Areas inaccessible to machinery may be managed by burning (provided these are not Silurian moth heaths) following the Heather and Grass Burning Regulations between 1st November and mid-February. Repeat over periods of 10-15 years depending on vegetation response. ➢ Gorse scrub can be mown with a flail cutter (in preference to burning) with grazing follow-up. ➢ To manage fire risks, firebreaks will be cut in consultation with SWF&RS and commoners to enable stock management. <u>Training and equipment</u> ➢ To enable longer term management, training will be given in management and restoration to enable commoners to undertake contract work.
Aims	➢ Restore 50 ha of heathland from acid grassland, bracken and/or purple moor-grass grassland. ➢ Manage 200 ha of existing heather ➢ Provide enhanced habitat for red grouse and lapwing. ➢ Maintain habitat for Silurian moth. ➢ Provide enhanced habitat for pollinators.
Specific management objectives	1. Identify areas of grassland, bracken and purple moor-grass where connectivity mapping shows maximum benefit of restoration in increasing habitat patch size. 2. Identify graziers with rights over areas and consult. 3. Review most appropriate techniques for heathland restoration for local vegetation, soils and management. 4. Identify over-mature heather areas and cut in patchwork mosaic of blocks c. 100 m x 30 m. 5. Block drains on wet heath.

	6. Review Glastir and other agricultural grants to provide a premium for suitable management of heathland. 7. Provide training in heathland recreation and management. 8. Cut 10km of firebreaks.
Priority Areas	Acid grassland/heathland mosaics. Vegetation where dwarf shrubs are less than 25% of the canopy. Existing heath in poor condition.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Better management of existing heathland. ➢ An increase on upland heathland of 600 ha over 10 years. ➢ An increase in red grouse and lapwing benefiting from improved habitat.

Delivery Plan Title: e) Peat Creation / Restoration	
Why the project is necessary	Bogs are sphagnum moss-rich vegetation developed over peat more than 0.5 m deep whose water supply comes from rain rather than ground water. They may form a blanket over convex and concave surfaces on level to moderately sloping ground, or a raised dome peat where it has accumulated on level surfaces. Peat bogs grow by about 1 mm per year. The vegetation has been modified by management such as burning, grazing and drainage and years of air pollution. Within the study area, bog is restricted to the study area to the Blorenge, Mynydd Garnclochdy, Mynydd Maen and Penpedairheol. There are 19 ha of Sphagnum bog, 2 ha of wet modified bog and 42 ha of dry modified bog; the condition of the vegetation on these is currently unknown. The quality is low due to years of burning, grazing and air pollution/acid rain. Although classified as sphagnum bog in the habitat survey, in most bogs in the study area sphagnum forms only a small component of the vegetation. Re-wetting and restoration of peat bogs through blocking of drainage channels has been shown to work (e.g. Anderson 2010, Shepherd *et al.* 2013). Many studies over 20 years show that blocking bog drains raises water tables (e.g. studies on Exmoor show up to 30% more water is retained after blocking ditches) and increases abundance and diversity of invertebrates and wetland plants over short timescales. However, the topography or vegetation properties of the catchment also affect water flow properties and dissolved organic carbon export, suggesting that some results are site specific and may take longer to occur. Some areas of plateau bog appear to have dried out with no apparent reason (e.g. parts of Mynydd Maen); this may be related to subsidence from mining resulting in new drainage in the soil which may not be apparent at the surface due to vegetation coverage.
What we propose to do	➢ To re-wet and restore the bogs, drainage channels within the bogs will be blocked which will raise the water tables in the

	peat. This will also contribute to retention of water in the uplands (see separate Delivery Plan). ➢ There are several methods used to blocking drainage channels depending on their size (http://issuu.com/peat123/docs/conserving_bogs). On Exmoor, wooden boards are used to block the drains and then sealed with tamped–down peat and turf. RSPB and others have used post and plastic sheeting dams to form barriers to water flow on smaller ditches. ➢ In badly degraded bog with cracked, shrunken peat, the process may first involve blocking the main channels and then second, as the bog becomes wetter with time and the shrunken peat re-wets, blocking the smaller channels. ➢ Where natural drainage patterns occur into sink holes (for example in the Blorenge SSSI), these will be maintained. ➢ Areas of bog which have not been drained may not be suitable for recovery by rewetting, but consideration can be given to blocking the natural drainage channels. ➢ To enable recovery of sphagnum moss, the peat will be assessed for acidity and suitability of liming and/or fertilising the peat to kick-start recolonization. Restoration methods using tissue culture of sphagnum and spreading in gel beads on degraded peat are being trialled in the Peak District and may be applicable to parts of the study area. ➢ Drain blocking technique has been widely shown to work elsewhere, so the need to install piezometers to measure the changes in water table needs to be assessed for cost-effectiveness; an indirect measure such as increase in percentage cover of sphagnum may be sufficient. ➢ Review Glastir and other agri-environment grants to provide a premium for suitable management of bogs. ➢ Develop an education project about the value of bogs for wildlife and ecosystem services.
Aims	Re-wetting and restoration of peat bogs has the following aims: ➢ Enhance the biodiversity value of bogs as a habitat in their own right and for priority species such as red grouse and lapwing, and others such as skylark and golden plover. ➢ Climate change regulation through carbon accumulation and storage. ➢ Reverse the oxidization and release of carbon from dry degrading peat. ➢ Flood regulation through slowing of runoff and storage of rainfall. ➢ Enhance quality of water draining from bogs to reduce chemical treatment required for human consumption. ➢ May provide summer water for stock. ➢ Fire resilience increased through maintaining wet peat. ➢ Climate change resilience increased through greater water storage during dry summers to maintain habitat and storage of water for summer water supplies

Specific management objectives	1. Block all drainage channels cut into bogs. 2. If appropriate, block other drainage channels. 3. Lime highly acidic peat to kick-start recolonization.
Priority Areas	Initially it is proposed to concentrate on the dry modified bog.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Restore 10 ha of bog.
Delivery Plan Title: f) Scrapes and Pools	
Location	Commons throughout study area; Figure 13 of NRMP
Why the project is necessary	Ponds have significant benefits for wildlife through increasing diversity and providing additional habitats and watering sources whilst also enhancing ecosystem services in terms of water retention in the uplands. Ponds are defined as a body of water between 1 m^2 and 2 ha which holds water for four months of the year or more. Provided the geology and soils are suitable, a simple approach is to create many small shallow scrapes and temporary ponds rather than a few large deep ponds. Construction of ponds on common land may require consent and there are potential public health and safety considerations with large water bodies. There are a small number of ponds and scrapes (temporary summer ponds) in the study area, some natural, some associated with old mine workings and other man-made. These can support a range of aquatic plant and animal life and as they are in areas with relatively low intensity land use. Availability of water in the uplands is important for red grouse during the summer. As ponds slowly fill with sediment and plant material with time (c. 1 cm/yr), with time they can infill and no longer function as ponds, and when completely shaded by willows can lose much of their diversity. Some ponds are already being created on the commons under Glastir (e.g. Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd Common). There are also links to the Nature Fund Pond Connections project being run by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust where ponds are being created on land just outside the commons. Reservoirs managed for water supply are excluded from this plan.
What we propose to do	There are two main elements to this plan: ➢ Restore in-filled or overgrown scrapes / ponds; the best practice method is to scrape out the sediment from most of the pond leaving some as a reservoir for wildlife, and place the silt carefully so as not to runoff into the pond or water courses or affect adjacent important habitat. Scrub needs to be cleared to leave as much if the pond open and unshaded as possible. ➢ Creation of new small ponds and scrapes in suitable places to enhance wildlife diversity.
Aims	➢ Restore all existing ponds which are overgrown or in-filled (unless with great crested newts).

	➢ Aim to create at least new ponds/scrapes on each common (20 minimum).
Specific management objectives	1. Survey quality of ponds in study area to assess which need restoration and which can be left. 2. Where appropriate survey for Great crested newts using eDNA (rare above 300m altitude). 3. Assess restoration needs, where silt can be placed and access for machinery. 4. Creation of small ponds and scrapes/temporary ponds on commons to benefit wildlife and provide some summer water, subject to topography and soils.
Priority Areas	Throughout study area
Desired Outcomes	➢ Restoration / creation of 20 ponds / scrapes.
Delivery Plan Title: g) Boundary Repairs	
Why the project is necessary	Maintenance of boundary fences and walls of commons is the responsibility of adjacent land owners (not the commoners who graze the commons). In some areas the adjacent land owners do not maintain the boundaries, which can cause problems for stock control on common grazing. All commons boundaries were once demarcated by stone walls, but recently many of these have fallen into disrepair and are no longer stock-proof. The lack of stock-proof boundaries makes the reintroduction of grazing animals difficult. Therefore, boundary features are of major importance in terms of the other aims of the NRMP, such as control of bracken and livestock diversification. Little information is currently available on the current condition of boundary fences and stone walls in the commons. Interviews with Commons Associations revealed some concerns regarding the current condition of field boundaries, but as yet problem areas have not been mapped. Weaknesses in boundary features also encourages the illegal use of off-roading vehicles, a major problem in the uplands of South-east Wales. Additionally, there is widespread concern about the condition of fencing between common land and forestry land, and whether the Forestry Commission would continue to maintain these fences. Taking a pragmatic view, boundary repair and restoration as part of this project independent of the adjacent land owners will enable enhanced management by grazing, and thus is considered important for wider commons management.
What we propose to do	The main purpose of this plan is to restore boundary features and make them stock-proof. This would have the added benefit of 'access hardening' for illegal off-roading; while such boundary features will not completely prevent access for such vehicles (as these may be vandalised), it may discourage all but the most

	stubborn culprits. Another, less tangible but important benefit is that stone walls are closely associated with this type of landscape, and their restoration therefore enhances the intrinsic value of the uplands. Eventually, it would be ideal to restore stone walls at all of the traditional commons boundaries, and this should be an aim of the 10 year plan. However, as returning stock (particularly cattle) to the landscape is a priority plan for the NRMP, post and wire fencing will be carried out as a temporary measure in order to control livestock. The approach to be taken is as follows: 1. Survey the study area to assess the condition of boundary features. This may be carried out by commoners themselves with reports supplied to the Project Manager. 2. Prioritise areas for repair/restoration based on the results of surveys, targeting key areas for conserving or restoring heathland, controlling bracken and discouraging the use of off-roading vehicles. 3. Train commoners and volunteers in dry stone walling technique (see TR2). 4. Where stone walls are in reasonable condition or most of the stone is still in situ, these should be restored as part of a training exercise for commoners and volunteers who want to learn this traditional skill. 5. Where boundary walls are in very poor repair or very few stones remain, boundaries should be made temporarily secure using post and wire fencing. 6. Where boundaries are hedges, these should be assessed for condition and management. Train commoners and volunteers in hedge laying and maintenance. 7. Consider innovative fencing / access hardening options including double fencing, the use of tree branches and new upland hedges such as those created on Mynydd Maen.
Aims	➢ To restore commons boundaries and make them stock-proof, which will in turn enable the return of livestock to the commons ➢ To enhance heathland through controlled grazing ➢ To control the spread of bracken through targeted grazing ➢ To train volunteers in dry stone wall skills ➢ To train volunteers in hedge laying/maintenance skills ➢ To discourage antisocial behaviour such as the use of off-roading vehicles ➢ To enhance the intrinsic value of the landscape by restoring traditional boundary features
Specific management objectives	To make 50% of boundaries secure through the use of post and wire fencing during SMS project – at least 10 km of stock fencing and 500m of dry stone walls repaired. To restore at least 50% of dry stone walls along commons boundaries within 10 years.

	Where appropriate (depending on site surveys), to restore hedges along some commons boundaries.
Priority Areas	To be identified in Year 1 of the project.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Increased diversification of stock, including sheep, cattle and ponies ➢ Restoring boundaries will improve the general condition of the commons and make it more viable ➢ More young commoners taking up grazing ➢ Facilitating targeted grazing to control the spread of bracken and enhance heathland
Delivery Plan Title: h) Delivery Plan Title: Volunteer Development and Training (TR1)	
Why the project is necessary	The continuing urbanisation of society has resulted in communities becoming disconnected from the uplands and their traditional uses. While many enjoy open access to the commons for quite recreation a significant number of people are now using the commons irresponsibly and through activities such as off road vehicle use, fly tipping and arson. They are causing serious problems for all legitimate land use stakeholders and affecting the resilience of upland ecosystems. It is well recognised that engaging local people in relevant volunteering activities can reconnect them with their landscape area and its heritage value. The more people engaged, the greater the impact on local communities in terms of altering perceptions. The study area has a strong history of volunteering and community engagement, and at present a range of projects are underway which are engaging local communities to encourage people to donate their time to conservation work.

What we propose to do	Volunteers will carry out land management and conservation work such as boundary repair (fencing and dry stone walling), control of invasive and unwanted species, habitat type and condition surveys, species monitoring surveys, and installation of way marks, styles and other infrastructure for visitors. As much of the work mentioned above requires specialist skills, it will be necessary to: 1. Identify individuals with the appropriate skills to carry out the work. 2. Provide interested volunteers with the skills necessary to carry out the work under the supervision of an experienced person. Therefore, an essential component of this plan will be to develop a suitable training programme with Gwent Wildlife Trust to identify people with the appropriate skills who are willing to share their knowledge with others. SE Wales Resilient Uplands Partnership staff will work with existing volunteer groups and the Probation Service to provide skills training so that they are able to support aforementioned mentioned activities.
Aims	➢ To identify motivated people willing to donate their time to volunteering for conservation in the study area, and to provide such people with the training required to carry out important work in the area. ➢ To develop and promote volunteering opportunities which will benefit people and nature. ➢ To instil a sense of pride of place in the local community by engaging members of the general public in land management. ➢ To ensure the continued practice of traditional skills such as dry stone walling
Specific management objectives	Specific outputs of the Volunteer Development and Training should be: ➢ An assessment of the volunteer resource / how these can be better co-ordinated ➢ Publicity materials to aid in volunteer recruitment, including a website or Facebook Page, posters and leaflets ➢ Deliver at least 5 training courses ➢ Provide volunteering opportunities through the SE Wales Resilient Uplands project
Priority Areas	This plan should aim to develop and better co-ordinate existing volunteers / groups.
Desired Outcomes	➢ Low-cost delivery of the land management and nature conservation objectives of the NRMP

	➢ Up-skilling of volunteers, which may enhance their employability ➢ Better health outcomes ➢ Sense of pride of place in the local area ➢ Traditional skills such as dry stone-walling will be passed on to the next generation ➢ Greater appreciation of the uplands and traditional land management practices amongst the general public
Delivery Plan Title: i) Regional Wildfire Plan	
Why the project is necessary	In 2014, FLP staff liaised with SWF&RS to produce a Wildfire Plan for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site / FLP area: http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/English/home/Documents/580%20Fire%20Plan%202014_for%20web.pdf This globally important landscape area includes the Blorenge SSSI – a notorious site for arson attacks. To reduce the impact of arson and wildfires a series of firebreaks were cut on the Blorenge. These have been mapped on a GIS system as have access points for SWF&RS vehicles and sources of water where appliances can replenish their reserves.
What we propose to do	The SE Wales Resilient Uplands Partnership and SWF&RS have agreed that this approach should be rolled out over the Project area and the activity monitored for efficacy. Linked to this activity are heather management and firebreaks and the delivery of the Landscape Crime Toolkit which includes SWF&RS schools activity programmes, community engagement and use of social media.
Aims	Create a useful tool so that the fire service can effectively tackle wildfires.
Specific management objectives	1. Gather baseline data on wildfires 2. Work with SWF&RS to produce a wildfire plan to include access points, water resources, firebreaks and other information. 4. Monitor efficacy.
Priority Areas	Heather throughout project area
Desired Outcomes	➢ Reduction in frequency and severity of wildfires ➢ Better co-ordination of resources ➢ Better communication
Delivery Plan Title: j) Hill Farming Training Scheme	
Why the project is necessary	The Hill Farming Training Scheme (HFTS) is an initiative developed by the Foundation for Common Land. It has benefitted from the Prince's Trust and RDP LEADER support and has been well

	received in its pilot areas in Cumbria and Dartmoor. Its aim is to host in service professionals on upland farms with commons rights so that attendees obtain a commoner's eye view of what it is like to manage the uplands and to consider the opportunities and constraints. The Scheme in England is now self-funding having raised sufficient interest for organisations to pay for their staff to attend. In 2014, the Foundation for Common Land entered into partnership with Torfaen Council to pilot the HFTS in South-east Wales. This was successfully delivered as part of the Nature Fund Project in 2015. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority staff and volunteers booked three 'Introduction to Hill Farming' courses and officers and CPOs from Gwent Police have also attended. Feedback has been extremely positive.
What we propose to do	There is now a need to effectively promote the HFTS and tailor it to the needs of the South-east Wales Uplands. To achieve this, courses will be developed around emerging priorities for in-service professionals, community groups, the hospitality and tourism sector and the voluntary sector: • Landscape crime • Managing common land • Conservation land management / working in partnership with hill farmers • Practical farm skills such as dry stone walling, hedge laying and stock fencing Linking with CS2, the Partnership will seek to recruit young farmers into the scheme. Using capital funds from the SMS, The Torfaen RDP Land Management Officer will continue to deliver the HFTS and develop it to self-sufficiency by the end of Year 3.
Aims	➢ Adapt existing course materials. ➢ Explore accreditation options ➢ Deliver at least 3 courses during project, trialling landscape crime, managing common land and practical skills training. ➢ Achieve self-sufficiency by the end of Year 3. ➢ Recruit 2 new trainers.
Priority Areas	Throughout the study area
Desired Outcomes	➢ Self-sufficient Hill Framing Training Scheme focussed on regional issues. ➢ More young farmers.