

## DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	13/02/2026
<b>DATE DECISION PUBLISHED</b>	19/02/2026
<b>DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE</b> and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution	26/02/2026

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### **NAME AND TITLE OF THE CABINET MEMBER**

Cabinet Member for: Cllr Craig ab Iago – Environment Cabinet Member

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**SUBJECT - New Welsh National Park Proposal – Response to the Public Notice Period.**

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### **DECISION**

To submit Cyngor Gwynedd's objection to the public notice period for the Glyndŵr National Park (Designation) Order 2026 for the following reasons (Letter of response included as appendix 1 of this Report).

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### **REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED**

Please see attached Officer Report.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

None.

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### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

Consultation with -  
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

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**DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL  
CABINET – OFFICER REPORT**

Name and title of Cabinet Member(s):	Craig ab Iago – Environment Cabinet Member
Name and title of Report Author :	Gareth Jones – Assistant Head of Department
Date the Decision was Taken:	13.02.2026
Signature of Cabinet Member(s):	

**Subject:** New Welsh National Park Proposal – Response to the Public Notice Period.

**Recommendation for the Decision:**

To submit Cyngor Gwynedd’s objection to the public notice period for the Glyndŵr National Park (Designation) Order 2026 for the following reasons (Letter of response included as appendix 1 of this Report):

The Welsh Language

The proposed area to be included in the new National Park in North West Wales includes parts of Gwynedd that are recognised as strongholds of the Welsh language, where it is used on a daily basis. Incorporating these communities into a new Local Planning Authority (LPA) that includes several unitary authorities – many of which have lower levels of Welsh language use – could risk weakening the focus on Welsh language considerations in planning and policy. This could have a negative impact on the status of the language and its everyday use in an area where it is currently thriving.

Although an assessment of the impact on the Welsh language has been carried out, the Council does not consider that the negative impacts can be mitigated in the proposed area which falls within the Gwynedd LPA. No sound evidence has been presented to support the statements made about the Welsh language in the Language Impact Assessment.

## Planning

The only assurance we have received is that the new National Park will be a Local Planning Authority.

No decision has been made regarding the type of planning service that will operate within the new National Park, and therefore we cannot be certain that there will be no negative impact on existing planning services.

With regard to the LDP, it is incorrect for NRW to state in its response to the concerns already raised by Gwynedd Council that:

"...considers that the risk to LPAs of abandoning existing or developing LDPs is low, particularly where the area being proposed is already an AONB and therefore unlikely to feature heavily in any LDP"

The guidance received from the Welsh Government's Planning Division is that no LDP should include parts of a different Local Planning Authority. Establishing a new National Park would therefore be contrary to that guidance.

The anticipation of a decision on whether or not to designate the new National Park may have an impact on the timetable for the preparation and delivery of the Gwynedd LDP.

## Funding

While we welcome the letter from the Deputy Minister dated 21 August 2025 setting out the financial position of the new National Park and the implications of this, it does not provide certainty.

NRW states that the Welsh Government has given assurances that Local Authorities will not be financially disadvantaged. However, as the Welsh Government is not receiving additional funding for the new National Park, there is no information on where the necessary funding will come from.

## Governance

There are no details on how the new National Park will be governed. Clarification is required on whether the Council will be represented or contribute to the Authority in any way.

As no clear guidance has been provided on this issue—despite it being raised multiple times by the Council—it remains a matter of concern.

## Candidate Area

Gwynedd Council is not satisfied with the reason given by NRW for including part of Gwynedd in the new National Park.

It has been noted that the area of Gwynedd included within the existing proposed boundary of the Glyndŵr National Park was originally identified by Hobhouse as potential AONB land for inclusion in Berwyn, and not for inclusion in the Eryri National Park. It is not clear what landscape changes have occurred that now make it suitable for inclusion in the new National Park.

The Council considers that it would have been useful to have the full consultation report rather than a summary document to assist in preparing a response to the Public Notice Period and Designation Order.

### **Reason why Decision is needed:**

Although the Council submitted a response to the public consultation held in November 2025 opposing the proposal for a new National Park, in order to formally object to the proposal, a response to the public notice stating the objection is required to be submitted as well.

### **Reason and justification behind the Decision :**

Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet has already made a decision to oppose the draft designation order and the proposed boundary of Glyndŵr national park. ( [National Park Cabinet Report Newydd.pdf](#)) The Council's response as reported to a Cabinet meeting in November 2025 was submitted to Natural Resources Wales in accordance with the statutory consultation period. However, Natural Resources Wales has since stated that Local Authorities which are statutory consultees need to formally confirm their objection to the Welsh Government during the notice period 16 January 2026 to 15 February 2026. ([Notice Period 2026 - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#))

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In its Programme for Government (2021-2026), the Welsh Government set out its intention to designate a new national park in Wales based on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or 'AONB'). Natural Resources Wales was then commissioned by the Welsh Government, as the statutory body on landscape matters, to evaluate the case for the proposed new national park. The assessment will take place within the current term of the Senedd (2021-2026).
- 1.2 Following previous statutory steps set out below and a review of the evidence and findings from the 2025 statutory consultation, Natural Resources Wales Board (NRW) has agreed to prepare a Designation Order for the Glyndŵr National Park (Appendix 2). A public notice has been prepared, and this gives the opportunity to formally object to the proposal. Following this period, the Welsh Government will further consider the proposal for a new National Park following receipt of information and evidence, including responses to the

consultation. It will then be up to the Welsh Government to decide whether to confirm, refuse or vary the designation order. If confirmed, a fourth national park in Wales would be created. This would be the first new park since 1957, and the first ever to be created entirely in and by Wales.

- 1.3 Only a small area of Gwynedd is included within the proposed park boundary (just over 11km<sup>2</sup> and less than 2% of the total area). Llandderfel is the only settlement within the boundary. According to information from the Council's Land and Property Gazetteer there are 220 addresses with 185 being residential and 15 commercial/business units. According to the 2021 Census the average household size in this area is 2.4 therefore it can be estimated that the population living in this area is 528.

## **2. Previous Consultations**

- 2.1 In 2023, NRW conducted a public engagement period on an initial map of the new national park, referred to as a 'Search Area Map'.
- 2.2 NRW undertook a non-statutory public consultation on a proposed draft boundary between October and December 2024, referred to as the 'Candidate Area Map'.

## **3. Gwynedd Council's response to the non-statutory Consultation between October and July 2024**

- 3.1 Although the consultations related to the proposed boundary of the new park and although it only affects a small area of Gwynedd the Council raised a number of concerns/questions namely:
  - The impact on house prices
  - The rural economy
  - The visitor and tourist economy
  - The Welsh language
  - Planning (Policy and Development Management)
  - Governance and funding
  - The candidate area and the need for a new national park
- 3.2 Although some of the concerns raised by the Council were resolved in the response provided by NRW to the consultation in 2024, concerns remained with five issues namely:
  - The Welsh language
  - Planning
  - Funding
  - Governance
  - The candidate area

## **4 Cyngor Gwynedd Response to the Statutory Consultation 2025**

- 4.1 The Council's response to this consultation elaborated on the concerns set out in 3.2 above. this response was presented a meeting of the Cabinet in November 2025.

## **5 Internal consultations and discussions**

- 5.1 On 9 October, Council officers met with NRW representatives along with Councillor Elwyn Edwards to discuss any concerns he may have as the local member. The concerns which arose are:
- The impact on the Welsh language
  - Budget / Waste of money
  - Governance
  - Over Tourism
- 5.2 Councillor Elwyn Edwards had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion at the Cabinet meeting in November 2025.
- 5.3 It was the Cabinet's decision to approve the response presented as Cyngor Gwynedd's response to the statutory consultation, with the addition of opposition to the draft designation order and proposed boundary for the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.

### **Record of any interest declared by any Cabinet Member consulted and any dispensation from a Standards Committee :**

Not Applicable

### **Any consultations undertaken prior to making the decision:**

As noted above, the response has already been discussed and has received a decision from Cabinet.

### **Chief Finance Officer**

No objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.

### **Monitoring Officer**

The report sets out the responses provided to the consultations on the proposed establishment of a new National Park. The Council's position through the Cabinet included opposing the establishment of the proposed National Park. This is reflected in the report which maintains this position in response to the Designation Order. Under the provisions of Appendix 1 Para 2 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 the Minister is required to arrange for an inquiry to be held

into the intention if an objection is received which is not withdrawn from a local authority. What is recommended represents such an objection that may lead to a public inquiry

**Local Member(s) – Councillor Elwyn Edwards –**

I agree with the objection and the reasons outlined. I remain concerned about the financial implications of establishing a new National Park, especially given that existing National Parks have been underfunded year on year.

I am also concerned about the potential impact of a new National Park on over-tourism in the Llandderfel area and on the Welsh language within the local community. Llandderfel already has a high percentage of second and holiday homes, and it is well-known that house prices tend to be higher within National Parks. I am worried about the wider social impact this could have if the new Park were to be created.

There is also a lack of information and clarity about the designation and its potential effects.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Cyngor Gwynedd Letter to object to the designation of Glyndŵr National Park

Appendix 2 - Designation Order Glyndŵr National Park

# Aelod Cabinet - Amgylchedd Cabinet Member – Environment

Cynghorydd / Councillor Craig ab Iago

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Cyng. Craig ab Iago

☎ 07825 661721

✉ [cynghorydd.craigabiago@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:cynghorydd.craigabiago@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:



13 Chwefror/February 2026

Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr Hysbysiad Statudol  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Sarn Mynach  
Cyffordd Llandudno  
LL31 9RZ

**DRWY E BOST/BY EMAIL:** [Parciau.Cenedlaethol@llyw.cymru](mailto:Parciau.Cenedlaethol@llyw.cymru)

Annwyl Swyddog

## Par: Gorchymyn Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndwr [Dynodi] 2026

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn gwrthwynebu'r gorchymyn dynodi ar gyfer y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd. Mae'r Cyngor wedi codi nifer o bryderon ers cychwyn y daith o greu y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd (gweler isod) ac yn anffodus nid ydym wedi derbyn atebion pendant i'r pryderon/cwestiynau hynny.

Mae ymateb y Cyngor i'r ymgynghoriad statudol ar y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd a'r gwrthwynebiadau a gyflwynwyd yn ystod y cyfnod yma yn dal i sefyll ac yn sail ar gyfer ein gwrthwynebiad i'r gorchymyn dynodi. Amlinellir isod gwrthwynebiad Cyngor Gwynedd i'r cyfnod hysbysiad cyhoeddus gorchymyn Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr (dynodi) 2026 am y rhesymau isod:

### Iaith Gymraeg

Mae'r ardal arfaethedig i'w chynnwys yn y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd yng Ngogledd-orllewin Cymru yn cynnwys rhannau o Wunedd sy'n cael eu cydnabod fel un o gadarnleoedd y Gymraeg, lle mae'n cael ei defnyddio yn ddyddiol. Gallai ymgorffori'r cymunedau hyn mewn Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol (ACLI) newydd sy'n cynnwys sawl awdurdod unedol - llawer ohonynt â lefelau is o ddefnydd y Gymraeg - beryglu gwanhau'r ffocws ar ystyriaethau Cymraeg mewn cynllunio a pholisi. Gallai hyn gael effaith negyddol ar statws yr iaith a'r defnydd bob dydd mewn ardal lle mae'n ffynnu ar hyn o bryd.

Er bod asesiad ar effaith yr iaith Gymraeg wedi ei gynnal nid yw'r Cyngor o'r farn bod modd lliniaru'r effaith negyddol ar yr iaith Gymraeg yn yr ardal arfaethedig sy'n disgyn o fewn ACLI Gwynedd. Nid oes tystiolaeth cadarn wedi ei gyflwyno i gefnogi'r datganiadau sydd yn cael ei wneud am yr iaith Gymraeg yn yr asesiad effaith iaith.

### Cynllunio

Yr unig sicrwydd sydd gennym ydy bydd y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd yn Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol. Nid oes penderfyniad wedi'i wneud ynghylch pa fath o wasanaeth cynllunio fydd yn gweithredu yn y parc cenedlaethol newydd, felly nid ydym yn gallu bod yn sicr na fydd effaith negyddol ar y gwasanaethau cynllunio presennol.

Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd LL55 1SH  
01766 771000  
[www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

O ran y CDLI, mae'n anghywir i CNC datgan yn ei hymateb i'r pryderon â godwyd eisoes gan Cyngor Gwynedd yn ei :

"...ystyried bod y risg i Awdurdodau Cynllunio Lleol o gefnu ar Gynlluniau Datblygu Lleol presennol, neu sy'n cael eu datblygu, yn isel yn enwedig ar gyfer ardaloedd sydd eisoes yn AHNE, ac felly mae'n annhebygol y bydd yn rhan bwysig o unrhyw Gynllun Datblygu Lleol"

Yr arweiniad a gawsom gan Is adran Gynllunio Llywodraeth Cymru yw na ddylai unrhyw CDLI gynnwys rhannau o Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol gwahanol. Felly byddai sefydlu Parc newydd yn groes i'r arweiniad hwnnw.

Gall y disgwyl am y penderfyniad o ddynodi'r parc cenedlaethol newydd neu beidio gael effaith ar amserlen paratoi a chyflwyno CDLI Gwynedd.

### Cyllideb

Er ein bod yn falch i dderbyn y llythyr gan y Dirprwy Gweinidog 21 Awst 2025 oedd yn gosod allan sefyllfa ariannol y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd a goblygiadau hyn, fodd bynnag nid yw'n darparu sicrwydd.

Mae CNC yn datgan bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi sicrwydd na fydd Awdurdodau Lleol dan anfantais ariannol ond chan nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn cyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer y parc cenedlaethol newydd, nid oes unrhyw wybodaeth ynghylch o ble mae'r cyllid hwn yn dod.

### Llywodraethu

Nid oes manylion ynglŷn â sut y bydd y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd yn cael ei lywodraethu. Mae angen manylion os bydd y Cyngor yn cael ei chynrychioli neu yn cyfrannu ar yr Awdurdod o gwbl.

Gan nad oes arweiniad cadarn wedi cael ei ddarparu ar y mater yma, er ei fod yn fater sydd wedi cael ei godi sawl gwaith gan y Cyngor, mae hwn yn parhau i fod yn fater sydd yn ein pryderu.

### Yr Ardal Ymgeisiol

Nid yw Cyngor Gwynedd yn fodlon â'r rheswm a roddwyd gan CNC am gynnwys rhan o Wynedd yn y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd.

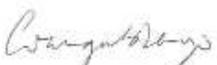
Nodwyd fod yr ardal o Wynedd sydd wedi'i chynnwys o fewn ffiniau arfaethedig presennol Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr ei nodi'n wreiddiol gan Hobhouse fel tir AHNE posibl i'w gynnwys yn Y Berwyn ac nid i'w gynnwys ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Eryri. Nid yw'n glir beth sydd wedi newid yn y tirwedd sydd yn golygu ei fod yn addas i'w gynnwys yn y parc cenedlaethol newydd.

Mae'r Cyngor o'r farn y byddai wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol cael yr adroddiad ymgynghori llawn yn hytrach na dogfen crynodeb i gynorthwyo wrth baratoi ymateb i'r Cyfnod Hysbyseb Cyhoeddus a'r Gorchymyn Dynodi.

Rydym hefyd yn dymuno nodi ein siom nad oedd wedi'i wneud yn ddigon clir cyn y Cyfnod Hysbysebu bod angen cyflwyno gwrthwynebiad ffurfiol i'r hysbysiad, hyn yn ogystal a'r gwrthwynebiad a gyflwynwyd i'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol yn Rhagfyr 2025. Yn bellach, dylid nodi na dderbyniodd y Prif Weithredwr ohebiaeth swyddogol yn nodi'r camau y disgwylir i'r Cyngor eu cymryd i ymateb i'r hysbysiad tan 22 Ionawr, er i'r cyfnod statudol ddod i rym ar 16 Ionawr. Roedd hyn yn siomedig o ystyried fod y Cyngor yn ymgynghorai statudol ac fod y cyfnod ymateb swyddogol yn dod i ben ar 15 Chwefror 2026.

Felly i gloi, mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn parhau i wrthwynebu'r cais i sefydlu Parc Cenedlaethol newydd. Rydym o'r farn fod cyfres o faterion yn parhau heb eglurder digonol o ran materion yn cynnwys yr iaith Gymraeg, materion Cynllunio, Cyllid a Llywodraethu.

Yn gywir



**Cynghorydd. Craig ab Iago**  
**Aelod Cabinet Amgylchedd**

Dear Officer

## **GLYNDŴR NATIONAL PARK (DESIGNATION) ORDER 2026**

Gwynedd Council opposes the designation order for the new National Park. The Council has raised a number of concerns since the beginning of the journey to create the new National Park (see below), and unfortunately, we have still not received definitive answers to those concerns or questions.

The Council's response to the statutory consultation on the new National Park, and the objections raised during that period, still stand and form the basis for our opposition to the designation order.

Gwynedd Council's objection to the public notice period of the Glyndŵr National Park (Designation) Order 2026 is outlined below for the following reasons:

### The Welsh Language

The proposed area to be included in the new National Park in North West Wales includes parts of Gwynedd that are recognised as strongholds of the Welsh language, where it is used on a daily basis. Incorporating these communities into a new Local Planning Authority (LPA) that includes several unitary authorities – many of which have lower levels of Welsh language use – could risk weakening the focus on Welsh language considerations in planning and policy. This could have a negative impact on the status of the language and its everyday use in an area where it is currently thriving.

Although an assessment of the impact on the Welsh language has been carried out, the Council does not consider that the negative impacts can be mitigated in the proposed area which falls within the Gwynedd LPA. No sound evidence has been presented to support the statements made about the Welsh language in the Language Impact Assessment.

### Planning

The only assurance we have received is that the new National Park will be a Local Planning Authority.

No decision has been made regarding the type of planning service that will operate within the new National Park, and therefore we cannot be certain that there will be no negative impact on existing planning services.

With regard to the LDP, it is incorrect for NRW to state in its response to the concerns already raised by Gwynedd Council that:

"...considers that the risk to LPAs of abandoning existing or developing LDPs is low, particularly where the area being proposed is already an AONB and therefore unlikely to feature heavily in any LDP"

The guidance received from the Welsh Government's Planning Division is that no LDP should include parts of a different Local Planning Authority. Establishing a new National Park would therefore be contrary to that guidance.

The anticipation of a decision on whether or not to designate the new National Park may have an impact on the timetable for the preparation and delivery of the Gwynedd LDP.

### Funding

While we welcome the letter from the Deputy Minister dated 21 August 2025 setting out the financial position of the new National Park and the implications of this, it does not provide certainty.

NRW states that the Welsh Government has given assurances that Local Authorities will not be financially disadvantaged. However, as the Welsh Government is not receiving additional funding for the new National Park, there is no information on where the necessary funding will come from.

### Governance

There are no details on how the new National Park will be governed. Clarification is required on whether the Council will be represented or contribute to the Authority in any way.

As no clear guidance has been provided on this issue—despite it being raised multiple times by the Council—it remains a matter of concern.

### Candidate Area

Gwynedd Council is not satisfied with the reason given by NRW for including part of Gwynedd in the new National Park.

It has been noted that the area of Gwynedd included within the existing proposed boundary of the Glyndŵr National Park was originally identified by Hobhouse as potential AONB land for inclusion in Berwyn, and not for inclusion in the Eryri National Park. It is not clear what landscape changes have occurred that now make it suitable for inclusion in the new National Park.

The Council considers that it would have been useful to have the full consultation report rather than a summary document to assist in preparing a response to the Public Notice Period and Designation Order.  
General Comments.

We also wish to note our disappointment that it was not made sufficiently clear prior to the advertising period that a formal objection to the notice needed to be submitted, in addition to the objection submitted to the statutory consultation in December 2025. Further, it should be noted that the Chief Executive did not receive official correspondence setting out the steps the Council was expected to take to respond to the notice until 22 January, despite the statutory period coming into force on 16 January. This is disappointing given that the Council was a statutory consultee and that the official response period ends on 15 February 2026.

To conclude, Gwynedd Council continues to oppose the application to establish a new National Park. We believe that a number of issues remain unresolved, with insufficient clarity regarding matters including the Welsh language, planning, finance, and governance.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor. Craig ab Iago**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

**DEDDF PARCAU CENEDLAETHOL A  
MYNEDIAD I GEFN GWLAD 1949**

**GORCHYMYN(DYNODI) PARC  
CENEDLAETHOL GLYNDŴR 2026**

Yn unol ag Adrannau 5 a 7 Deddf Parciau Cenedlaethol a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad 1949, mae Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru drwy hyn yn dynodi yn Barc Cenedlaethol yr holl ardal honno o dir sy'n cynnwys oddeutu 927 cilomedr sgwâr a leolir yn siroedd Sir Ddinbych, Sir y Fflint, Gwynedd, Powys, Wrecsam ac y dangosir ei therfynau ag ymyl ddu ar y map sydd wedi'i atodi yma ac a ddisgrifir ymhellach yn yr Atodlen i'r gorchymyn hwn.

Gellir cyfeirio at y gorchymyn hwn fel Gorchymyn (Dynodi) Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr 2026.

RHODDWYD o dan Sêl Gyffredin

Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru

ar y 14 diwrnod hwn o fis Ionawr yn  
2026

**NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO  
COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949**

**GLYNDŴR NATIONAL PARK  
(DESIGNATION) ORDER 2026**

In pursuance of Sections 5 and 7 of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, the Natural Resources Body for Wales hereby designate as a National Park all that area of land comprising approximately 927 square kilometres situated in the counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Powys, Wrexham and shown bounded by a black line on the map annexed hereto and further described in the Schedule to this order.

This order may be cited as the Glyndŵr National Park (Designation) Order 2026.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of

the Natural Resources Body for Wales

on this 14 day of January 2026



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Scau', written over a horizontal line.

Cadeirydd Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru / Chair of the Natural Resources Body for Wales

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda', written over a horizontal line.

Prif Weithredwr Corff Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru / Chief Executive of the Natural Resources Body for Wales