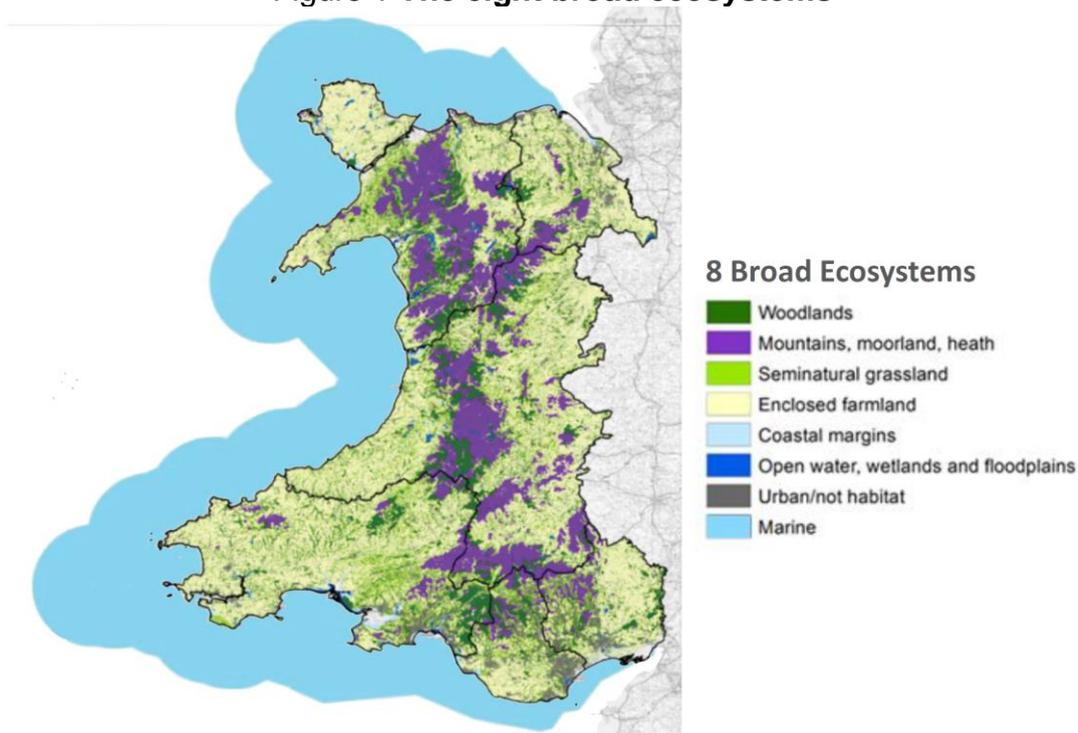# Transforming Wales' management of natural resources

What is the SoNaR Report?

The State of Natural Resources Report, or SoNaRR, is a five-yearly assessment of how sustainably Wales is using global natural resources. It brings together the current evidence on environmental pressures and suggests a range of opportunities for action. The report is required by law, to inform Welsh Government policy, local development plans and Area Statements.

SoNaRR2020 was published in December 2020, with technical chapters published in March 2021. As the map below shows, SoNaRR2020 covers the whole of Wales, as well as our global environmental impact. The assessment splits Wales into eight different types of place, with chapters on each of the eight broad ecosystems showing the natural resources in that place and the links to other ecosystems:

Figure 1 **The eight broad ecosystems**

A second group of chapters then looks at the crosscutting pressures facing these ecosystems, covering these themes:

- Climate change
- Land-use change
- Pollution
- Over-exploitation
- Invasive non-native species

SoNaRR2020 builds on the evidence base in the first SoNaRR produced in 2016.

Key messages

Wales is not currently achieving the sustainable management of natural resources
SoNaRR2020 uses four aims to assess Wales's sustainable management of natural resources. For the reasons set out on the links below, it found that Wales falls short of achieving:

1. stable stocks of natural resources,
2. resilient ecosystems,
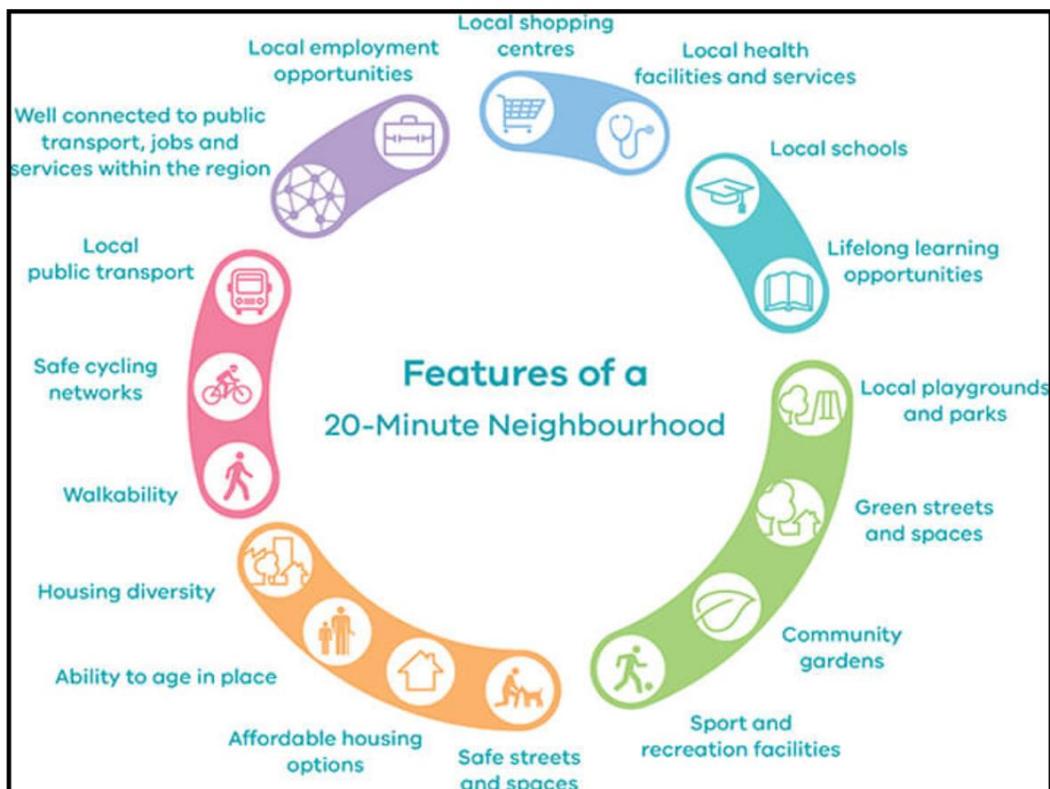3. healthy places for people, free from environmental risks
4. a regenerative economy.

Wales needs to take a systems approach to tackling environmental problems
In order to make Wales's use of natural resources more sustainable, transformational change is needed to things like the food, energy and transport systems. Although those three systems are not the only ones putting pressure on the environment, they are responsible for most of the impacts, so are good place to start a systems approach.

We need action in the environment, economy & society
The traditional mix of action on the ground, accompanied by regulation and economic incentives are needed, but we also need a greater focus on the role of civil society in enabling rapid, large scale change. The biggest potential to lower our environmental impact, is in changing the way we organise the systems that support everyday life. In the transport system, for example, changing the way we plan urban areas can design out the need for the private car:

Figure 2 **Redesigning the transport system**

The same is true for the energy and food systems, as well as the urban construction sector etc. where more options become available when we step back from the issue and look at the wider systems context for our daily activities

Further information about SoNaRR2020

The SoNaR Report Website
Natural Resources Wales / State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020
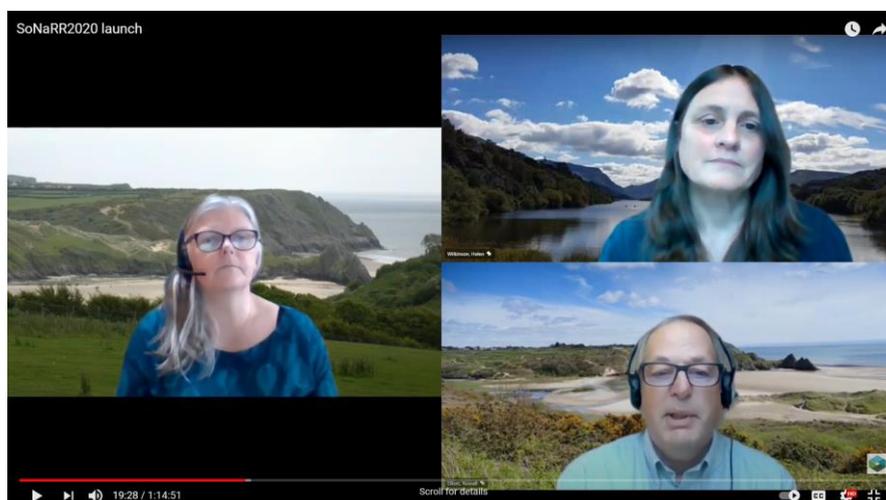
BBC News
The SoNaR Report as covered by BBC news:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-55814191

SoNaR Report Launch
The SoNaR Report as presented at its launch in January 2021:
SoNaRR2020 launch - YouTube