1. Introduction

1.1 Plan Authors
To produce this plan it was clear the extent of the work required would be far greater than the FLP staff team and the various Partnership Working Groups could manage without support. To ensure effective project development it was recognised that a range of specialist skills would be required, these were:

| Landscape architects with experience in visitor management and access provision | Biodiversity: audit, survey, habitat and species management |
| Interpretation planners with experience in web based and digital technologies | Archaeological audit, survey and built structure conservation |
| Education planning and delivery - formal and informal | Hydrological surveys and hydro power schemes |
| Community outreach and business development | Geological survey in relation to industrial raw materials |
| Training: volunteer induction, skills and work programming | Commons management and grazing |

As a result the Partnership tendered for teams of consultants who could provide the necessary skill sets and, following a rigorous selection process, appointed:

**Parkin Heritage and Tourism** (a team assembled and led by Ian Parkin and Jon Townend)
- Ian Parkin: Parkin Heritage and Tourism
- Jon Townend: Town & Landscape Ltd
- Dr. Geoff Irlam: Town & Landscape Ltd
- Gareth Kiddie: Gareth Kiddie Associates
- Ruth Taylor Davies: Letha Consultancy

**Radnorshire Wildlife Services** (a team assembled and led by Chris Ledbury)
- Chris Ledbury: Radnorshire Wildlife Services
- Mike Scruby: Geologist
- Catherine Etchell: Catherine Etchell Associates Ltd
- Nicola and Eric Hawkeswood: Hawkeswood Ecology
- Chris Hatch: Wildlife Consultant
- Shane Kellaher: Birmingham Archaeology
- Care Cook: C D Gray Archaeological Engineers

**Pico Energy**
- Dr. Phil Maher

Three briefs were prepared for the tendering process:

i. Audience Development and Access
ii. Land Management and Conservation
iii. Micro Hydro Project

These can be found in the supporting documentation.
1.2 Participation and Consultation
A number of organisations have played a central role in the development of the adopted Scheme. These are: Torfaen County Borough Council (lead partner), Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency. All of these bodies are represented on the FLP Key Officer Steering Group and the Blaenavon Partnership. Other organisations such as the RCAHMW, Cadw, the National Museum, University Wales Newport, GGAT, the Commoners Associations and local community groups, who will be in part responsible for the delivery of specific projects, have also assisted in Project Development work.

During the early stages of Project Development survey work, required for the landscape audit, was conducted by consultants in conjunction with volunteers.

Extensive consultation, conducted during the Project Planning year (2007 – 08), led to the adoption of a suite of Projects by the FLP Partnership. The consultation process is outlined in full in the Audience Development and Access Plan (2008) and is summarised in Chapter 6 of the Landscape Character Study (revised 2009). During the Project Development Year a further round of consultation was undertaken to ensure that emerging delivery plans would meet the expectations of the Partnership. To this end consultants and FLP staff:

- interviewed a number of key officers
- made presentations to, and conducted workshops with, the FLP Technical Working Groups and the Key Officer Steering Group
- circulated reports of these events and projects under development for comment
- sought feedback from the members of a newly formed FLP Citizens Panel whose purpose was to represent the views of communities and interest groups in the project area.
- made presentations and held feedback sessions with the area’s four commoners associations

To present Projects to the widest possible audience, a two day drop in session was held at the World Heritage Centre. Text, diagrams, plans, maps and photos were displayed and attendees were encouraged to provide opinions on individual projects and the overall Scheme.
Interest shown by other Organisations
During the course of the Development Year a number of organisations contacted the Partnership. Having learned of the aims and objectives of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership they wished to include a presentation and site visit into their conference agendas. These organisations were and their events were:

1. **ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites – AGM Cardiff 5th July 2009.**

One ICOMOS attendee fed back from the day saying ‘I was really impressed by the Scheme, the staff we met, and the landscape itself - such enormous potential, currently under-appreciated. I enjoyed the walk even when we got wet - the way participants together learned from the facilitator and from each other was rewarding and enjoyable’.

2. **NEXUS Conference, University of Wales Newport, Caerleon Campus 17 June 2009**

Nexus: Meaning the link - the means of connection between things linked in series. The conference, organised by UWN, was about linking research and teaching in Higher Education. The organisers had become aware of the Partnership’s ambitious plans to provide community based education intended to reconnect local people with their rich heritage. The FLP Development Officer outlined the scheme and co-led a landscape visit with staff from the University. The field trip was designed to provide delegates with an insight into plans to promote economic, social, cultural and environmental improvements, by making use of the physical environment as a vehicle to engage members of the local community in taking ownership of their heritage and its management.
Quotes from delegates:

‘This is amazing, I’ve been looking for ideas for my PhD proposal and this has given me so many ideas about how to engage and develop curriculum’

‘I knew about the Forgotten Landscapes proposal before I came, but this has really helped me understand how the curriculum will work and the community will benefit’

‘This has given me a real handle on how it will work and how the Partnership, with the community, will benefit’

‘I’ve never thought of a research framework being so adaptable so as to act as a flexible tool for the learner to identify their own learning interests. This has been an eye opener for me in many ways’.

3. The Annual Conference of the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) 13 October 2009

This was the annual gathering of interpretation professionals. The title of the conference was “Making the Past work for the Future – Interpretation in Action - Community Regeneration through Interpretation.”

The conference focused on the rejuvenating powers of interpretation - discovering how interpretation can transform communities, restore pride, attract investment and help shape the future. The Forgotten Landscapes Scheme was seen as an example of this approach to the use of interpretation.

Quotes from the delegates:

‘Stunning site visits, inspirational speakers’

‘Sharing of ideas and experiences, especially the visit to Blaenavon’

1.3 Scope of the Plan

The LCAP relates to an upland block located at the eastern extremity of the South Wales coalfield. Apart from its sharing a similar physical nature the entire area also has a similar history of intense industrialisation, extraction of minerals, transportation of water, raw materials and finished goods and grouse moors. Reference to Chapter 8 of the Landscape Character Study (revised 2009) provides the following description: ‘The upland block of the Blorenge and Coity Mountains are, in effect, a discrete and manageable cultural and natural heritage landscape unit.

At the core of the FLP lies the 33sq km Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS). Inscribed in 2000, it is a unique example of where the full social, economic and technological process of industrialisation, through iron and coal production, can be studied and understood.

While the BILWHS is of unquestioned global significance, the surrounding landscape contains many features which are related to and enhance the story Blaenavon has to tell. For reasons explained in Chapter 8 of the Landscape Character Study (revised 2009) a larger area of
some 71sq km was adopted as the Scheme area and during the course of the Project Development year this ‘landscape setting’ has been adopted as a buffer zone by the partnership.

The area covered by the FLP Scheme and the BILWHS is shown at the end of this section.

1.4 Links to other Planning Work
The Landscape Character Study (LCS), produced during the Stage 1 Planning Year, provided FLP staff with the information they needed to ‘take out’ to consultation. It describes the heritage features of the landscape, its archaeology, wildlife and social history, the rise and fall of iron making and mineral extraction, its visual and sensory character. It also assessed risks that the heritage landscape faces now and in the future and identifies opportunities to deal with these. As the consultation process developed clear Project ideas, these were inserted into the relevant sections of the LCS, and it was this list which was used in the latter stages of the consultation process to determine the Projects that would be adopted. As a result it can be considered as the key document that shaped the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Scheme.

Throughout this process, the Partnership was careful to ensure that Project ideas supported International, National, regional and local plans and policies. These can be reviewed in Chapter 3 of the LCS.

1.5 Brief Description of the Scheme
The Forgotten Landscapes Scheme will deliver a set of Projects which will collectively: help conserve and promote the heritage landscape; engage and mobilise local people to increase community participation; improve access to, enjoyment and understanding of, and provide people with the skills to conserve their heritage landscape. This holistic approach to heritage landscape management should result in the area having a sustainable future and act as the next step in creating a world class heritage asset for all to learn from, access and enjoy.

To help achieve this, the Partnership has divided the work into four Programmes:

1. Conservation and Climate Change Implementation Programme
2. Community Engagement, Education and Training Implementation Programme
3. Visitor Management and Interpretation Implementation Programme
4. Project Management and Maintenance Programme

1 Conservation and Climate Change Implementation Programme
Principal areas of work:

i. to conserve and restore the industrial features that create the historic character of the landscape

ii. to conserve the area’s many important habitats and species including heather moorland and red grouse

iii. to reduce the area’s Carbon footprint by installing a micro hydro power generation system and by encouraging visitors to access the landscape on foot or bicycle.
2. **Community Engagement, Education and Training Implementation Programme**

   Principle areas of work:
   i. engagement of local interest groups
   ii. support for local producers
   iii. events – both as a platform for community involvement and as a mechanism for attracting visitors
   iv. volunteer training
   v. schools education
   vi. community lifelong learning

3. **Visitor Communication and Interpretation Implementation Programme**

   Principal areas of work:
   i. visitor communication
   ii. additional access gateways and promotion of easy trails to key sites of significance (destinations), family cycling tours and cross-country riding routes
   iii. interpretation, including guided walks

4. **Scheme Maintenance and Management Implementation Programme**

   i. Staff posts and overheads

For full details on the content of the Implementation Programmes please see Section 5 of the LCAP
Forgotten Landscapes Project
Landscape Conservation Action Plan

Introduction
Forgotten Landscapes Project
Landscape Conservation Action Plan

Introduction

Ancient beech woodland on the eastern flanks of the Blorenge Mountain