

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT 2019 – 2020

1. The attached report outlines the current state of scheduled monuments in the National Park, archaeology work programmes of 2019 – 2020 and identified priorities for 2020 – 2021 and beyond. The significant impact of COVID-19 is also highlighted throughout.
2. The report includes the following sections:
 - State of National Park Scheduled Monuments 2019 – 2020
 - Management Plan 2020 – 2024 and Corporate and Resources Plan 2019 - 2020
 - Archaeology: Work Programme 2019 -2020
 - Archaeology: Priorities 2020-21 and Future Developments

RECOMMENDATION:

Members are requested to RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Report.

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ARCHAEOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority



SUMMARY

The report outlines the current state of scheduled monuments in the National Park, relevant Management Plan 2020 – 2024 policies and corporate and resources plan 2019 – 2020. In addition, it highlights the work programmes that took place in relation to archaeology during 2019 – 2020 in support of delivering against the Authority's Well-being Objectives and identifies priority areas for 2020 – 2021 and beyond. The significance of COVID-19 is also highlighted throughout the report.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park contains a wealth of archaeological heritage that covers an incomprehensible period of time. From the Upper Palaeolithic (or Old Stone Age) up to more recent times, this vast timeframe means that the type of monuments and features that are encountered are diverse. From prehistoric cave sites, coastal forts, burial chambers and relic boundaries, to castles and ecclesiastical settings from the middle ages and to more recent industrial mills, limekilns, quarries and heritage from the First and Second World War. In total, there are over 9,500 records relating to features of archaeological interest in the National Park, this includes 287 scheduled monuments. Whilst the statutory responsibility for these monuments rests with Cadw, the Historic Environment Agency for Wales, the fact that these are recognised in law as being of national importance indicates that the Authority has a role and responsibility to help in efforts to safeguard them. For every scheduled monument that exists in the National Park, there will be many more undesignated monuments that will be of local significance. Equally, the National Park has a role to help safeguard these.
2. Whilst the Authority has an important role to play in safeguarding these archaeological features, it is important to acknowledge that the National Park covers a vast area and cannot act on its own. The involvement of people, communities and the wider public is important to achieve the National Park's aspirations. Equally important is ensuring good working relationships with stakeholders, internal colleagues and external organisations.
3. This report highlights the ways that the Authority has been attempting to achieve its goals and aspirations with respect to archaeology in the National Park; including engagement, partnership working and work to safeguard monuments. Whilst the Authority achieved a lot in terms of its various archaeological work programmes and projects during 2019-2020, it is important to recognise that the current COVID-19 crisis has had a profound effect on the organisation and that includes work programmes and projects in relation to archaeology.

STATE OF NATIONAL PARK SCHEDULED MONUMENTS 2019 – 2020

4. Figure 1 shows the proportion of National Park scheduled monuments that are within each risk level category and is based on Cadw's routine inspection of scheduled monuments. The data suggests that a significant proportion of monuments are at low risk of deterioration (53%). These are likely to be in a stable and favourable state with potential minor issues that threaten their condition. Unfortunately, over a third of scheduled monuments in the National Park are categorised as being of medium or greater risk of deterioration, this means a significant proportion are at risk of substantial deterioration without intervention. Unfortunately, a proportion of National Park monuments do not have current data in relation to their condition, this is due to the fact that Cadw inspections have not taken place and it is therefore possible that the proportion of scheduled monuments that require attention could be higher.

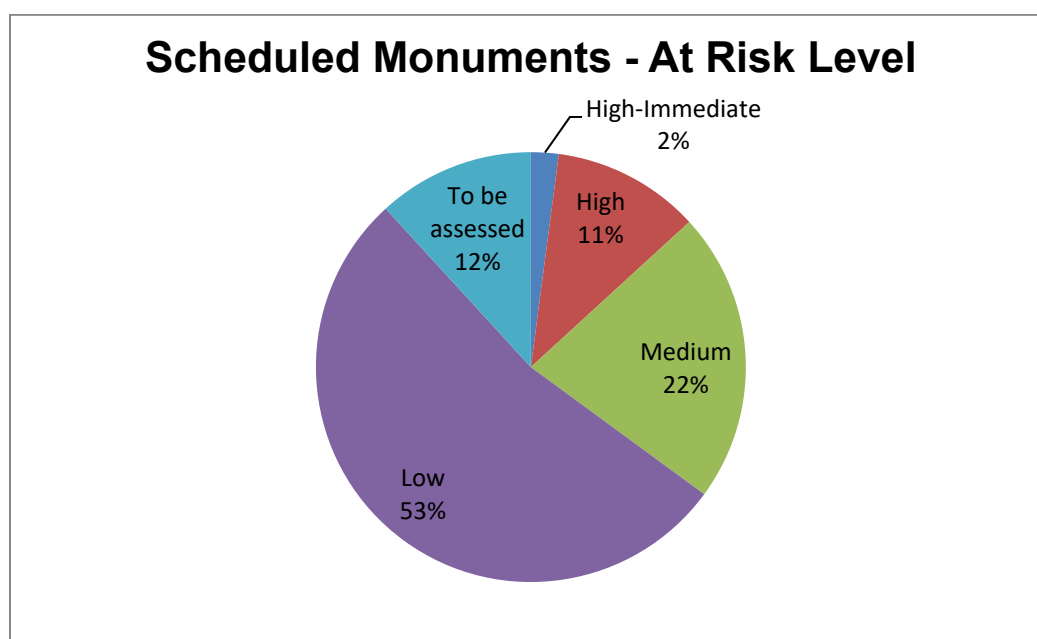


Figure 1: Pie chart showing the risk level for the 287 scheduled monuments in the National Park.

5. As part of its inspection, Cadw will note any threats that have the potential to affect scheduled monuments. Figure 2 shows the type of threats that have been identified for scheduled monuments in the National Park. As is evident from the results, the types of threats that affect National Park scheduled monuments are varied. According to the data, the largest issue appears to be vegetation encroachment, essentially this relates to problematic species such as bracken and gorse that are likely to impact negatively on the condition of scheduled monuments. Other significant threats include natural erosion or decay and this largely relates to coastal sites that are at risk of coastal erosion

and climate change. In relation to management regime issues, this relates to the lack of management in relation to vegetation control, as such it is linked to the vegetation encroachment threat. One important point in relation to threats is the fact that their impact on a monument will vary; as such one monument might be severely impacted by vegetation encroachment, whilst another will be impacted negligibly. It is also worth highlighting that some scheduled monuments will be affected by more than one threat. The fact that monuments will be affected by different threats and to different degrees means that the type of intervention required will vary.

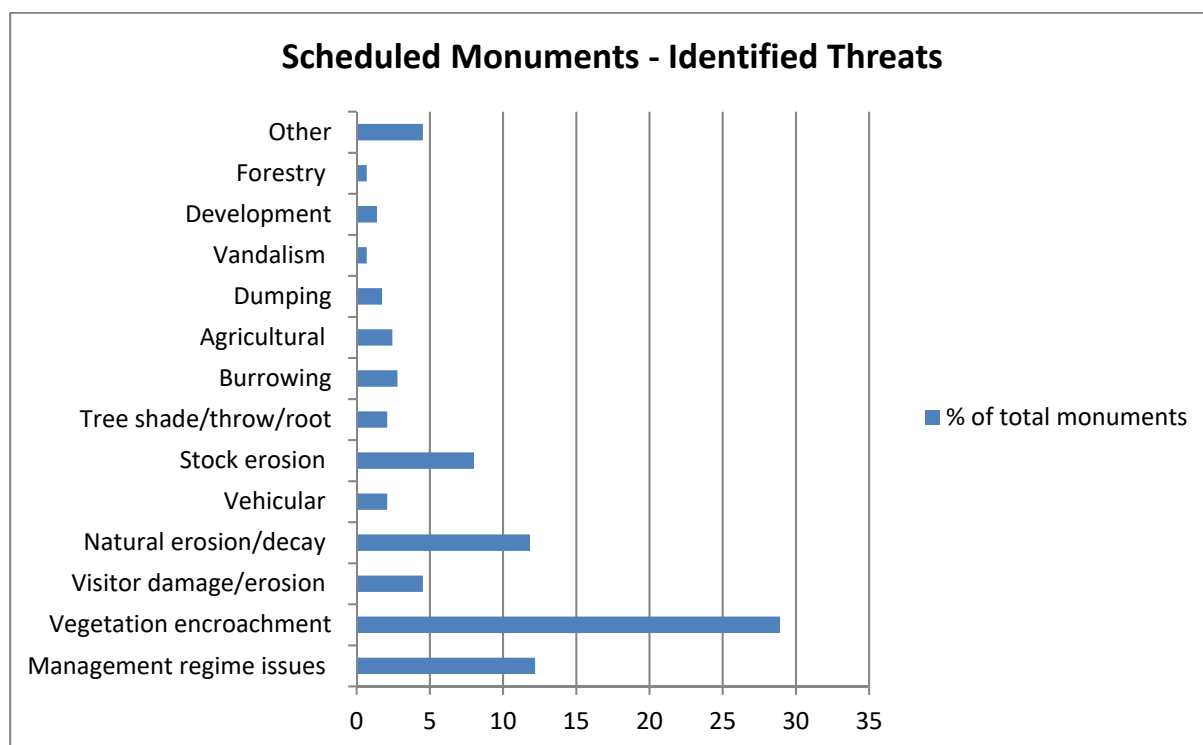


Figure 2: Bar chart showing the types of threats and proportion of National Park monuments affected.

6. The results highlight that scheduled monuments are in need of attention and this includes both conservation and monitoring work. Under Cadw's current approach, scheduled monuments receive inspections on a 10-yearly basis; in order for the Authority to help with managing these monuments, it is clear that it requires more frequent data of condition. Setting up a system that enables communities and volunteers to get involved with monitoring is therefore a priority, along with a dynamic system to undertake intervention work based on the findings of such monitoring activity. These scheduled monuments are owned by a multitude of landowners, from small private landowners to large organisations like the National Trust. As such, strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new ones is also an important part of the process to help address issues with these monuments.

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 – 2024 AND CORPORATE AND RESOURCES PLAN 2019 – 2020

7. The Authority's work in relation to archaeology has a role to play in helping it achieve its Management Plan aims and objectives. In particular, many of the archaeology work programmes will help it meet its aims and objectives in relation to heritage, however it is also likely to help the Authority meet its objectives with respect to wellbeing and biodiversity. The key policies that are likely to be directly impacted by archaeology related work are:

H1. Conserve and enhance landscapes of particular historic interest, Conservation Areas, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings.

- a. Raise public awareness and enjoyment of historic landscapes, buildings and monuments, increase appropriate access to them and engage and support communities and volunteers in heritage monitoring and conservation.
- b. Monitor the condition of scheduled monuments and sites of local heritage significance.
- c. Target management (including agri-environment scheme assistance) to stabilise monuments in worsening condition, prioritising according to monument condition and the nature of risk, with recording and rescue excavation, as appropriate, for sites at risk of coastal erosion.
- d. Conserve and restore field boundaries with a particular emphasis on areas of registered historic landscapes and relevance to connectivity for biodiversity.
- e. Manage development in accordance with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's *Local Development Plan 2* heritage policies and associated guidance (e.g. updates to conservation area proposals documents, including review of tree preservation orders). **Note: Development management is outsourced to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and is not dealt with in-house.**
- i. Monitor heritage crime and liaise with crime prevention agencies to ensure that where it arises appropriate action is taken.

H2. Promote the Welsh language and local dialects and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.

- a. Interpret and animate landscape, cultural heritage, natural history and the arts.
- b. Contribute to the target¹² for the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh to reach a million by 2050.
- c. Collaborate with local communities and others to celebrate and record dialect, customs, songs, crafts and other attributes of local identity in the Park and provide opportunities for people to share stories about their relationship with the landscape and their own heritage.

- d. Provide guidance on the sympathetic enjoyment of monuments considered sacred and their settings.
 - e. Collaborate in delivery of projects arising from the Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan, e.g. Community Participation.
8. Work related to archaeology is also linked to the Corporate and Resources Plan. During 2019 – 2020, the following performance measures related to the Plan:
- Number of sites of historic interest communities involved with – 42 sites.
 - Number of historic sites where conditions have improved through community involvement – 16 sites.
 - Number of volunteer days (heritage site monitoring) – 2.5 days.

ARCHAEOLOGY WORK PROGRAMME 2019 - 2020

9. During financial year 2019 – 2020, the Authority undertook a number of activities relating to archaeology that covered the following areas. In particular, core activities contribute to the following Authority 2019/20 Well-being Objectives:
- Community: To work alongside communities to help them make the most of the NPA. In particular the work stream on Community Engagement and Projects.
 - Culture: To protect and promote the local culture of language, arts and heritage of the area. In particular the work streams on Community Archaeology, Historic Inspiration and Experiences and Strategic and Partnerships: Heritage.
 - Global: To ensure our work makes a positive contribution to global well-being. In particular the work streams on Inspiration & Learning: Special Qualities and Climate Change Risk & Adaptation

Community Engagement Projects

10. A diverse range of work took place to engage people, communities and the public with archaeology in the National Park and surrounding area through key community projects. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H1c, H2a, H2b, H2c and H2e.

The Heritage Guardians Programme

11. During 2019-2020 the Authority worked with students from three primary schools in Pembrokeshire; Ysgol Maenclochog, Ysgol Brynconin and Ysgol Croesgoch. In total 15 sessions took place and included approximately 55 students across all three schools. The programme was setup in 2018 to get students and local schools engaged with archaeology and heritage that is on their doorstep. In total, nine primary schools and one college have participated in the programme. The fact that one school has participated in the programme for a second time, along with the fact that others would be interested in establishing longer term partnerships, is a clear indication that the programme is well received and valued by educational.



**Arwyr Amser
Heritage Guardians**



Figure 3: Ysgol Maenclochog students undertaking a mini excavation to see what heritage lies beneath their school.

12. Between October and November 2019, the Authority worked with Ysgol Maenclochog and Ysgol Brynconin to run a series of Heritage Guardians sessions. To complement the schools' curricula around Pembrokeshire's contribution to the battle over the skies during the Second World War and aviation more generally, the sessions focused on aviation heritage wherever possible. Sessions included an introduction to archaeology and artefact handling, aerial archaeology and drones, mini excavation, site visit, recreating monuments using Lego and posters and visit to the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre.

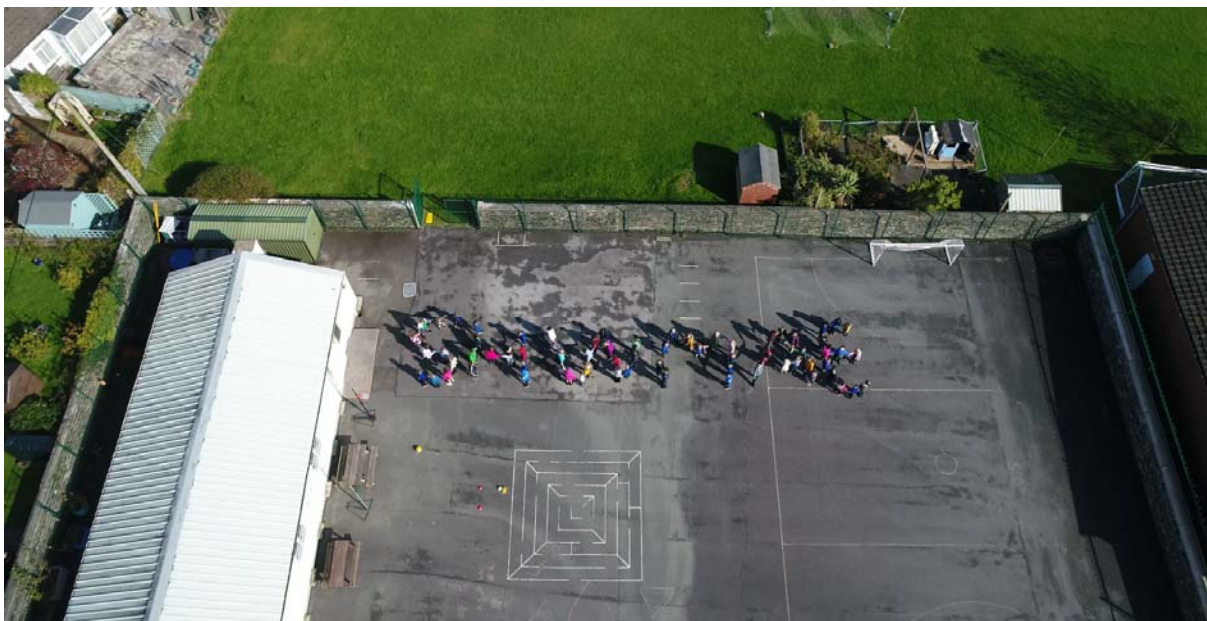


Figure 4: Ysgol Brynconin students undertaking a drone survey of their school, here shown spelling 'shw mae' on the ground.

13. Between January and February 2020 the Authority worked with students from Ysgol Croesgoch. Following a similar series to the sessions delivered to Ysgol Maenclochog and Ysgol Brynconin, the students learnt about archaeology and had an opportunity to engage with their local heritage. This school decided to focus on climate change and its impact on coastal sites. As such, they explored its impact on Industrial archaeology at Abereiddu, St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands and Caerfai coastal fort, St Davids. Towards the end of the sessions they undertook research to explore ways to mitigate the impact on these sites and gave group presentations to fellow students. As an extension to the programme, students from Ysgol Croesgoch were supposed to be taking part in a local excavation taking place during the summer term. In light of COVID-19, this is no longer possible as all excavations have been postponed until at least the autumn and only if it is safe to do so. As such, the Authority hopes to offer this opportunity as and when excavations commence.



Figure 5: A timeline of changes at Abereiddu and also a poster on fossils identified by Ysgol Croesgoch students through the programme.

14. Between December 2019 and March 2020 meetings took place with Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi, Coleg Plas Dwbl and the Pembrokeshire College regarding getting involved in the Heritage Guardians programme. All three settings were interested in the prospect of being involved with the programme. The Authority agreed to run sessions with Coleg Plas Dwbl in April 2020 and this would include adopting Gors Fawr Standing Stone Circle to monitor its condition and help safeguard it. A programme was agreed with Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi to run between April and May 2020 followed by involvement in a local excavation. A meeting had been scheduled with students at the Pembrokeshire College to discuss opportunities and there appeared to be an excitement from the College around this prospect. In light of COVID-19, these

plans have been put on-hold, the Authority hopes to resume these, once it is safe and appropriate to do so.

The Ancient Connections Project

15. The Authority contributed to the archaeological aspects of the Ancient Connections project, including supporting the St Patrick's Chapel excavation at Whitesands. The contract was awarded to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust to lead on the excavation in partnership with the Authority, the University of Sheffield, Cadw and Pembrokeshire County Council. As part of this work, excavation would take place over three seasons. The first excavation season took place in September 2019 and this resulted in the excavation of a significant area of the later phase chapel being excavated. In addition, several burials were uncovered.



Figure 6: Project staff and volunteers preparing St Patrick's Chapel ready for excavation.

16. From an engagement perspective, the first excavation season was successful, in total there were 45 volunteers involved equating to 2100 hours. This included National Park Volunteer Wardens and volunteers from Friends of the National Park. During the excavation, communities, visitors and the wider public were able to engage with the work by visiting the site, attending scheduled tours and learning about developments via social media. The number of physical visitors to the site, stood at 4,000. During the excavation, the Authority posted video logs on its social media platform in Welsh and English, the number of views highlight that this was a popular means of promoting the excavation. The excavation also drew media attention from S4C as part of its Cynefin series and by ITV Wales through its Wonders of the Coast Path series.



Figure 7: Exposure of St Patrick's Chapel during excavation.

17. In addition to the excavation work, the Authority also supported key partners of the project to select a suitable archaeological contractor to undertake archaeological research in Pembrokeshire and Wrexford. In October 2019, the contract was awarded to DigVentures with work to commence over late-2019 and 2020. This included providing open days and training opportunities for volunteers in geophysical surveys. During 2019, a meeting also took place to discuss footpath improvements at the site of St Non's Chapel, St Davids.
18. In light of COVID-19, the St Patrick's Chapel excavation and the archaeological research being undertaken by DigVentures in 2020 has currently been suspended until it is safe and appropriate to resume work.

Saving Treasures Telling Stories Project: Beneath our Feet

19. The Authority supported the Beneath our Feet project strand of the Saving Treasures Telling Stories project. This particular strand of the project aimed to get communities engaged with their past. Working with National Museum Wales, Narberth Museum, Tenby Museum and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, this strand provided an opportunity for people, communities and the public to bring in heritage object that they had uncovered to be identified and also learn more about the cultural heritage of Pembrokeshire. In total, four sessions were held across Pembrokeshire between September and November 2019 at Tenby Museum, Narberth Museum, Oriel y Parc and Castell Henllys. As a result of the sessions, members of the community learnt more about heritage, what resources existed and presented object finds ranging from the Bronze Age to more recent times. The work of this project strand was presented at the Saving Treasures Telling Stories workshop event at St Fagan's in March 2020 and was the only talk provided through the medium of Welsh. A celebratory event was also held at Narberth museum in November 2019. Across all events, the Authority engaged with a hundred people approximately.



Figure 8: Attendee looking at coins and a sword brought in during the Beneath our Feet drop-in session at Narberth Museum.

Climate Change and Coastal Heritage (CHERISH) Project

20. CHERISH is a joint Wales-Ireland EU funded project exploring the impact of climate change and weather on coastal, island and marine heritage. During 2019-2020 the Authority attended several meetings with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), Cadw and the Natural Trust to plan an excavation at a coastal fort in the National Park, known as Caerfai, St Davids. The site is at risk of coastal erosion and the excavation would explore buried archaeological deposits at the site that are at risk of loss. In addition, members of the CHERISH team provided an aerial archaeology session to Ysgol Maenclochog and Ysgol Brynconin as part of the Heritage Guardians programme. This included undertaking a drone survey of the schools.



Figure 9: Photograph showing area at Caerfai, St Davids with potential archaeological deposits and also high risk of loss through erosion.

21. As a direct result of CHERISH work at another coastal fort known as Porth-y-Rhaw, near Solva, the Authority installed a Changing Coast fixed point photography post to monitor the impact of climate change and coastal erosion at the site during July 2019.



Figure 10: Member of the public taking a photograph from the fixed point photography post at Porth-y-Rhaw, near Solva.

22. The CHERISH team was hoping to carry out an excavation at Caerfai in autumn 2020, however due to the important community archaeology aspect, this has been postponed until 2021 because of COVID-19.

Preseli Heartlands Project

23. The Preseli Heartlands project is led by PLANED and aims to get communities in the Preseli area connected with their heritage using creative approaches. It also hopes to use heritage to help with health and wellbeing and provide opportunities for young people. During 2019 – 2020, the Authority attended three steering group meetings to discuss progress with respect to the project. In partnership with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Authority proposed a project strand to carry out a community excavation of a roman villa discovered in the area. As part of the proposal, the Authority would work with a local school through Heritage Guardians and provide an opportunity for students to be involved. The idea is currently under consideration.
24. The Authority was also planning to support an archaeologically themed walk through the project in partnership with a story teller, this was due to take place in April 2020. In addition, a meeting took place with a member of the Brynberian community in March 2020 regarding archaeological research that has been carried out in the region over many years. A volunteering opportunity to digitise this research was identified.
25. Due to COVID-19, all activities and opportunities associated with this project have been suspended until it is appropriate and safe to resume these.

Events and Activities

26. The Authority provided a number of events and activities to enable people, communities and the public to engage and enjoy archaeology within the National Park. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H2a, H2b and H2c.

Archaeology Day 2019

27. During November 2019, the Authority held its annual Archaeology Day at Pembrokeshire College. For the 2019 conference, the theme focussed around engagement and research and included a presentation from Pembrokeshire College students and National Museum Wales on the Chariot Burial discovery. In addition, the Heritage Guardians programme, the Beneath our Feet project and excavations at Porth-y-Rhaw and Penally trenches were showcased.



Figure 11: Dr Adam Gwilt presenting on the Chariot Burial discovery and excavation at the 2019 Archaeology Day.

28. Of the 170 delegates that attended this event, 16 provided feedback. 15 out of the 16 respondents noted that they had enjoyed the day. In the case of one respondent who provided a lower satisfaction score, it appears that they felt the conference was focussed too heavily on engagement, rather than showcasing more detailed archaeological research. This is a point that will be taken on board for future conferences. However, it is worth noting that the number of respondents was low and therefore makes it difficult to assess whether other delegates felt the same. The fact that 94 per cent of respondents enjoyed the day, suggests that engagement is valued as a subject. It is also worth highlighting that engagement is an integral part of contemporary archaeological practice and is a powerful health and wellbeing tool.

29. The Archaeology Day is run in partnership with PLANED and the success of the 2019 Archaeology Day indicates that this is a partnership that should continue. Based on ticket sales for the event, it is clear that this is a highly sought after event and the income generated from the sales means that the conference is able to cover itself financially. In 2019, the cost of a ticket was £20 or £16 for students, in comparison to other conferences this is a reasonable price.

Agricultural Shows 2019

30. During 2019, archaeological aspects of the National Park were showcased at several agricultural shows. This included the Pembrokeshire County Show, Nevern Agricultural Show, Fishguard Agricultural Show, Cardigan Agricultural Show and the Llawhaden Young Farmers Club Christmas Fair. Attendance at all of these shows enabled the public and communities to learn more about cultural heritage in the National Park, discover what events were taking place and also discover how they could help. Many of the archaeological features in the National Park are found on agricultural land, as such engaging with the agricultural community is important to help safeguard and raise awareness of their importance. Across all events, the Authority engaged with a thousand people approximately.



Figure 12: Positive feedback from the County Echo regarding the archaeology provisions at the County Show.

31. Attendance at the Pembrokeshire County Show resulted in new relationships being formed. As a result of the event, the Authority now has access to a substantial collection of artefacts from the St Nicholas area. The landowner in question has agreed to loan some of the artefacts to go on display in the Orielly Parc archaeology display case. Attendance at the agricultural shows also enabled children and families to engage with archaeology in a creative and fun way. The sand pit containing artefacts, along with Lego material to recreate National Park monuments proved popular.

Archaeology Themed Guided Walks

32. Between July and August 2019, two archaeology themed walks took place. The first walk in July focussed on the archaeologically and historically significant setting of Foel Drygarn and Carn Meini, while the second explored Carn Ingli and its landscape. Walkers learnt about different types of prehistoric archaeological features, how to read the landscape and explored what life might have been like in the prehistoric era. They also learnt about ways the Authority is helping to safeguard archaeology. The walk was done in partnership with the Ranger Team and volunteer wardens. This worked well as it broadened the experience. For example, the Rangers talked about wildlife and biodiversity.
33. Based on feedback from the walkers, the walks were well received and they had enjoyed the opportunity to explore archaeological aspects of the National Park. As a result of the feedback, a series of archaeology themed walks were organised for 2020. Due to COVID-19 scheduled walks have been cancelled and it is likely the remaining walks will be cancelled also. These will be offered at an alternative date and time once safe and appropriate to do so.

Ysgol Crymych After School Archaeology Activity

34. During February 2020, the Community Archaeologist in partnership with one of the Northern Rangers facilitated an archaeology activity with an afterschool club at Ysgol y Frenni Primary School. As part of the session, 40 students took part and received an interactive presentation on archaeology and its significance in the Preseli area. The second half of the session included an artefact handling session and building local monuments out of Lego. Students appear to have enjoyed the session and produced some interesting representations of monuments in Lego.



Figure 13: National Park monuments recreated by students using Lego at the afterschool club activity at Ysgol y Frenni, Crymych.

Partnerships

35. The Authority continued to strengthen and broaden partnerships in relation to archaeology and heritage at both a local, regional and national level. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H1b, H1i, H2b, H2c, H2d and H2e.

The Heritage Watch Scheme

36. Heritage Watch is a partnership scheme to safeguard historic assets within the National Park and Southwest Wales area from heritage crime. The scheme was established by the National Park in partnership with Dyfed-Powys Police in 2018 following incidents at key archaeological sites in the National Park, including Pentre Ifan and Gors Fawr. The scheme aims to increase public reporting of heritage crime, raise awareness of issues, undertake patrols of problematic sites and provide training. Ultimately, it aims to prevent heritage crime taking place, thus leading to reductions in incidents occurring. Shortly after its inception, Cadw, the Historic Environment Agency for Wales joined the scheme. During a meeting in 2020, Dyfed Archaeological Trust has joined the scheme; as a result the scheme is able to cover an area beyond the National Park, specifically the remainder of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.
37. During 2019 – 2020, two meetings took place with key partners to discuss the scheme, including its development. In November 2019, the Authority met with colleagues from Dyfed-Powys Police (including the Heritage Crime lead) and Cadw to discuss the mechanism for reporting heritage crime, training needs, patrols and publicity. A meeting dealing specifically with publicity of the scheme took place in February 2020 and the development of a webpage to complement the Facebook page was agreed and refreshing the branding to include new partners of the scheme (i.e. the Dyfed Archaeological Trust). It was agreed that the creation of a webpage, revamp of the Facebook page and refresh of the scheme branding should be completed during 2020.
38. As a result of the meeting in November 2019, the Authority agreed to facilitate training to members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in partnership with Cadw. This provided attendees with an introduction into archaeology, along with the relevant legislation. Attendees also learnt about the different types of heritage crime issues and visited National Park sites where heritage crime was or had been an issue. In addition to this training event, the Authority along with Cadw was invited to provide training to a wider cohort of Dyfed-Powys Police officers at a training forum in Llandrindod Wells. In addition, to the Authority and Cadw, this training event would have included the Dyfed

Archaeological Trust, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales. This training event was scheduled to take place in March 2020, unfortunately due to COVID-19 a decision was made to cancel the event. It is hoped that this event will be rescheduled once safe and appropriate to do so.



Figure 14: Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams visiting Pentre Ifan with the Authority and Cadw staff during the February training event.

39. During 2019 – 2020, the scheme received some public attention and this included a radio interview with the Community Archaeologist in March 2020 to highlight heritage crime and its impact on sites in the National Park and beyond. This was broadcast as part of Gilbert John's Country Focus Sunday programme on BBC Radio Wales. An article relating to this story was also posted on the [BBC News website](#). In addition, an interview to be broadcast on BBC Wales News was due to be shown; unfortunately due to COVID-19 this story was pulled. A successful Police case involving the theft and subsequent of bluestone to the Preseli area was highlighted as part of the scheme and received media attention from a number of national and local newspapers. The story was also shared on the scheme's Facebook page.
40. During 2019 – 2020 a database of sites at risk from heritage crime was created. Public reports and site visits during the year have identified that seven scheduled monuments are at risk. Whilst it is likely that this list will grow as the scheme becomes established and more reports are received, it also means that resources to tackle the issue can be deployed efficiently and to where they are needed. As part of the scheme, this database is shared between the key organisation and action is taken as and when appropriate to do so.



Figure 15: BBC News article highlighting heritage crime and the scheme (source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-51872715>).

41. The importance of the scheme is highlighted by a report made in January 2020 by a member of the public about issues at the Nevern Cross in Nevern. The monument has a long standing issue whereby people deposit coins into the monument in a fashion similar to throwing coins into a wishing well. Whilst this might seem harmless, it is likely to increase the impact of the freezing-thawing process in these gaps. This will lead to greater risk of decay in the monument. As a result of the scheme, the Authority was made aware of the issue and was able to act accordingly by removing coins from the monument. In addition, the issue was highlighted on the Facebook page to raise awareness of the issue and a management plan was put in place to monitor the situation at the site.



Figure 16: Photo showing a two pence coin deposited in the Nevern Cross.

National Parks UK Historic Environment Group

42. During October 2019, the Authority attended the annual National Parks UK Historic Environment Group meeting in Edinburgh. This was hosted by Historic Environment Scotland and included historic environment colleagues from the UK National Parks, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Historic England. The meeting discussed issues relating to the historic environment in National Parks and the joint statement accord.

Historic Environment Group (Wales)

43. The Historic Environment Group (Wales) is a Welsh Government working group that includes the central organisations involved within the historic environment in Wales. It also includes a minister of the Welsh Government. Some of the key aims of the group include, promoting partnership and joint working, encouraging communication and information sharing, supporting coordinated action in the delivery of strategic priorities and contributing to the development of strategy and policy.
44. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are currently represented on the group by Snowdonia National Park Authority who raises any relevant historic environment issues to the group. During 2019 – 2020, four meetings took place and the Authority provided relevant updates to the Snowdonia National Park Authority representative in advance of these meetings.

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Wales and the Welsh Borders) Group

45. The National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Wales and the Welsh Borders) Group is represented by the Welsh National Parks and Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and those on the English side of the border. In addition, Cadw, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Archaeological Trusts are represented. The group discusses issues relating to the historic environment that are specific to National Parks and AONBs in Wales. The group is chaired by Natural Resources Wales. The group's annual meeting took place in September 2019 and the Authority was present.

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)

46. ALGAO represents archaeologists working in local authorities and national parks across Wales, England and Scotland. It is primarily concerned with issues affecting the historic environment within a local government framework and providing support to the sector. To reflect the regional differences between the home nations, ALGAO contains regional branches, in Wales this is known as ALGAO:Cymru. Each region contains an elected Chair and a Vice-Chair and the Chair of each region sits on the executive committee, of which forms part of ALGAO:UK and this is representative of the regional branches at UK level.
47. Members of ALGAO:Cymru include the Welsh National Park Authorities, the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Council for British Archaeology. In 2019, the Authority became a member. Prior to appointment at the Authority, the Community Archaeologist was elected to the role of Vice-Chair during the March 2019 ALGAO:Cymru elections as part of his role at Snowdonia National Park Authority. As elections are normally held on an annual basis, members agreed that his position should be retained until the next election in 2020. As such, the Authority held the title of Vice-Chair during 2019 – 2020. In March 2020, the Chair of ALGAO:Cymru, asked the Authority to temporarily take over duties, due to COVID-19. This also meant that elections could not be held as per normal timescale, as such the Authority held the role of acting Chair at the end of 2019 - 2020. This involved liaising with other UK regional chairs and the executive committee and dealing with actions. In addition, the Authority kept in touch with other members of ALGAO:Cymru to ensure support during COVID-19.

Council for British Archaeology Wales

48. The Council for British Archaeology Wales is a sub-group of the UK Council for British Archaeology and is focussed on promoting the interest of the historic environment in Wales and also to bring together those interested in Welsh archaeology. In December 2019, the Authority became a committee member of this sub-group and hopes that this will lead to partnership working and opportunities that helps the Authority strengthen its work in relation to cultural heritage.

Pembrokeshire Heritage Forum

49. The Pembrokeshire Heritage Forum is a recently established group that developed out of the South Pembrokeshire Heritage Forum. The Authority attended a meeting in February 2020, where the group agreed for the Forum

to be broadened out to cover the whole of the county and as such, be renamed as the Pembrokeshire Heritage Forum. The Forum is composed of heritage organisations and societies that are focussed on Pembrokeshire's heritage and the group provides an opportunity for members to meet, share ideas and strengthen the heritage sector in Pembrokeshire. The group is led by PLANED and the Authority is helping with establishing this group. Due to COVID-19, the Forum has been unable to facilitate a meeting with members; however is exploring holding a virtual meeting to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the heritage sector and ways that recovery can take place.

Pembrokeshire College

50. At the 2019 Archaeology Day, the Authority learnt about the opportunity that had been provided to Pembrokeshire College students as a result of the Chariot Burial excavation project. The project gave students the opportunity to get involved with the excavation and also visit National Museum Wales in Cardiff to see the post-excavation work. As a result of this opportunity, some of the students involved had gone on to pursue further studies in heritage related fields. As a result of this, the Authority made contact with the Pembrokeshire College staff to discuss how archaeology related opportunities could be provided within the National Park. In February 2020, the Community Archaeologist met with a member of staff from the College to discuss the potential opportunities that could be provided to students in the National Park. Following this meeting, 20 students expressed an interest and the Community Archaeologist agreed to visit the College to present potential opportunities to the interested students in March 2020. Due to COVID-19, this meeting did not take place; hopefully this will be rearranged once appropriate and safe to do so.

Pembrokeshire Prospectors

51. The Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society is a metal detecting group operating in Pembrokeshire. The Authority became aware of the group through the work of the Beneath our Feet project strand of Saving Treasures Telling Stories. Collectively the members have increased knowledge around the historic environment and made some incredible discoveries, including the recent Chariot Burial. In February 2020, the Community Archaeologist attended their monthly meeting to make connections with the group and to introduce potential ways to work together. Following on from this meeting, the Community Archaeologist has been in touch with the group regarding working on the Heritage Guardians programme, specifically providing an opportunity for students to discover more about metal detecting and its role in archaeology.

Archaeological Surveys

52. The Authority undertook a limited number of archaeological surveys to increase knowledge around features within the National Park. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H1d, H2a and H2c.

Traditional Boundaries Survey

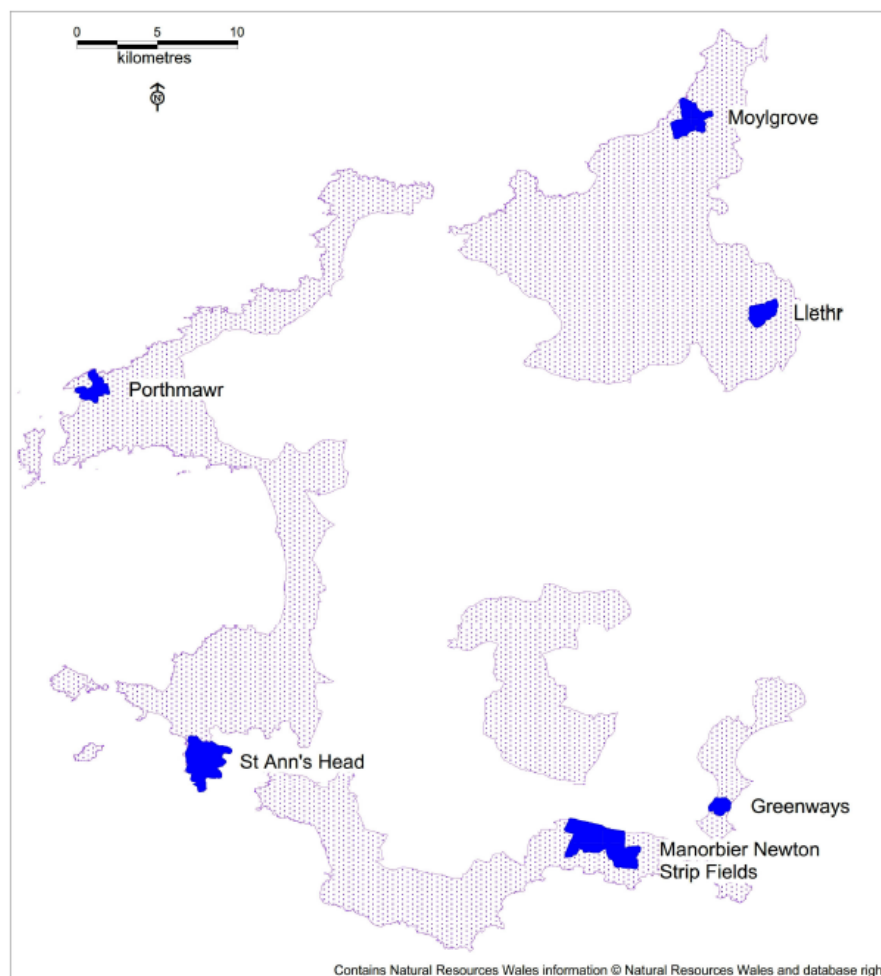


Figure 17: Map showing areas sampled (in blue) as part of the survey.

53. In advance of the implementation of the pilot traditional field boundary grant scheme, the Authority commissioned a National Park's traditional boundaries survey between January and March 2020. The purpose of this survey was to establish what traditional boundaries exist in the National Park, including identifying those of archaeological or historical significance. In addition, the survey explored the current condition of surveyed boundaries and provided recommendations on how boundaries should be prioritised in terms of the forthcoming scheme. The results of the survey were insightful and indicated that areas contained a more diverse range of boundaries than was previously

thought. In terms of future work in respect of surveying traditional boundaries in the National Park, one of the recommendations that came out of this work was to develop a volunteering opportunity for people and communities to undertake surveys of traditional boundaries. This could be incredibly useful and would help the Authority with management of an important feature of its landscape. This could also complement the traditional field boundary grant scheme being developed as more detailed information could help with selection of applications. As a result of its potential benefit, a project proposal has been submitted to expand this work.

Gilfach Goch Archaeological Survey

54. In July 2019, the Authority was contacted by a landowner about potential archaeological features at Gilfach Goch near Fishguard. The landowner was in the process of clearing stones from a field and was concerned that he might disturb buried archaeological deposits. As a result, the Community Archaeologist attended to assess the feature and determined that the feature would benefit from further investigation as its circular pattern could be archaeologically significant. To avoid an intrusive form of investigation, a geophysical survey was commissioned. Unfortunately, the results of the survey proved inconclusive due to the magnetic disturbance of the underlying geology of the area. Due to this fact, the Community Archaeologist decided to undertake some ground disturbance investigation of the feature by exposing the underlying stones. After undertaking this investigation, it was clear that the feature was natural, despite the fact that it appeared archaeological. Whilst the results were disappointing, the site visit did reveal two standing stones that had not previously been identified. As a result, these were recorded and the information was submitted to the Historic Environment Records held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.



Figure 18: Photographs of the standing stones discovered at Gilfach Goch.

Interpretation

55. The Authority commissioned a limited number of interpretive works on key sites and landscapes to enhance engagement with archaeological features in the National Park. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H2a and H2c.

St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands

56. The site of St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands currently has an interpretation panel in the car park area adjacent to the site. Unfortunately, the panel and its content are faded and require replacement. As a result, the Authority commissioned reconstructive artwork of the Chapel based on the most recent archaeological research. This work took place between October 2019 and April 2020. The work was due to be completed in March 2020, however COVID-19 meant the work was slightly delayed. The artwork was produced using digital reconstructions and is based on real world photography; as such the viewer of the image is able to imagine what the Chapel looked like in the real world landscape. The Authority will hopefully be able to build on this work to enhance the site for communities and the public further.



Figure 19: Digital reconstructive artwork of St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands.

Oriel y Parc Archaeology Display case

57. The Authority currently has an archaeology display case in the main visitor centre area. At present, this includes a limited number of artefacts and information. In order to enhance this display case and increase visitor engagement with archaeological heritage in the area, the Authority commissioned three pieces of artwork between January and May 2020. This

work was due to be completed in March 2020, however COVID-19 meant that completion was delayed. The artwork reflects the areas prehistoric heritage and includes hunter-gatherers (based on the most recent research), Carreg Samson burial chamber and the ancient woodland area that would have inhabited the Whitesands coastal area. In addition to this artwork, the Community Archaeologist established loan agreements with local landowners regarding displaying prehistoric archaeological objects in the display case. In addition, the individual who discovered the aurochs horn that is currently on display has donated more objects, including a bear mandible. In conjunction with the Interpretation Officer (North), work to draft written content for the display case commenced in 2019 - 2020.



Figure 20: Artwork of Carreg Samson (top left), the prehistoric landscape of Whitesands (right) and a hunter gatherer group (bottom left).

Monitoring and Conservation

58. The Authority undertook work in relation to monitoring the condition of archaeological assets and features and carried out conservation work. In relation to the Management Plan, this area of work had a direct impact on policies H1a, H1b, H1c, H1i, H2c, H2d and H2e.
59. During 2019 – 2020, the Authority met with Cadw and the National Trust to discuss ways to work together to monitor and undertake conservation on relevant monuments. A monitoring system was developed by the Community Archaeologist in conjunction with Cadw and the National Trust as part of a National Lottery Funded project whilst working at Snowdonia National Park Authority. Whilst the system was not implemented in 2019 -2020 in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, discussion is ongoing and it is hoped that this will take place in the foreseeable future. Two National Park volunteers have trialled the monitoring form and the Community Archaeologist was working with the Volunteering Development Officer to develop a training package for interested volunteers. Due to COVID-19 a training event for interested volunteers did not go ahead, however remote training is being explored.



Figure 21: Photographs showing before and after vegetation clearance at Caerfai, St Davids.

60. During 2019 – 2020, a number of visits took place to assess the condition of monuments and included joint visits with Cadw, National Trust and also National Park colleagues and volunteers. In total, ten scheduled monuments received visits. As a result of these visits, management plans and/or conservation action plans have been put in place to address issues; this includes increased monitoring, adding to the list of sites at risk of heritage crime and carrying out direct conservation work. In some cases, management plan recommendations were received from Cadw and plans to undertake the recommended actions were put in place. Unfortunately, COVID-19 means some of these plans have been put on hold until it is appropriate and safe to carry out the work.

Welsh Language Provision

61. In relation to work related to archaeology, the Authority ensured that these were provided through the provision of both Welsh and English wherever possible. In relation to the management plan, this has a direct impact on policy H2b.
62. The Heritage Guardians programme was delivered through the medium of Welsh and English during 2019 – 2020. This meant that students from Ysgol Maenclochog and Ysgol Brynconin were able to engage with the programme through the schools primary medium of Welsh. Whilst the majority of session material was delivered through the medium of English at Ysgol Croesgoch, the flexibility meant that students and faculty members of the school were able to converse through their preferred medium.
63. The fact that archaeology was a feature at various agricultural shows across the county means that the provision of Welsh and English was beneficial, as it gave people and communities the option to converse through the preferred medium.
64. Publicity of activities and events were delivered through the medium of Welsh and English and this appears to have broadened the Authority's engagement with people, communities and the wider public. Publicity for the excavation at St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands was delivered bilingually and both mediums appear to have been viewed on social media. Both the Welsh and English video logs of the excavation received many views on Facebook. As mentioned earlier in the report, the Authority was the only organisation to present the Beneath our Feet project strand through the medium of Welsh at the St Fagan's Saving Treasures Telling Stories workshop in March 2020.

ARCHAEOLOGY: PRIORITIES 2020-21 AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

65. It is likely that COVID-19 will have an impact on progress and priority during 2020 – 2021; despite this, a number of areas have been identified for action and priority that can in one form or another take place:

- Adoption of Archaeology Action Plan and Priorities; this is currently under development and will complement and coincide with the relevant Management Plan 2020 - 2024
- Development and implementation of volunteer monument monitoring system; this is currently under development with the Volunteering Development Officer and Cadw. A virtual training session is being explored and if appropriate will take place in the foreseeable future.
- Develop and implement a land management system in relation to scheduled monuments; discussion is currently under way with Cadw and relevant organisation on this matter.
- Review and implement Heritage Guardians as a core programme of archaeology; an evaluation of this programme is currently under way.
- Manage the Heritage Watch Scheme in partnership with key partners; work is currently under way to develop a webpage, refresh the Facebook page and update the scheme branding.
- Continue to undertake and support archaeological research in collaboration with key partner organisations; several excavations were due to take place in 2020 – 2021 with partner organisations. These are currently postponed due to COVID-19, however it is hoped they will commence once safe and appropriate to do so.
- Continue to support community projects relating to archaeology and heritage; there are several community projects that are currently in progress that the Authority is supporting. Due to COVID-19, many of the work, activities and events are currently on hold, however it is hoped they will commence once safe and appropriate to do so.
- Continue to deliver the Archaeology Day and other events; discussion is already underway with PLANED for Archaeology Day 2020 and alternative ways of providing the conference will need to be explored due to COVID-19. Several guided walks were planned during 2020, however these have been cancelled to date. Hopefully these can be rescheduled or at least provided in 2021 (situation permitting).
- Development of web pages that is specific to archaeology and heritage; discussion have taken place with the Communication Team and several areas have been identified for development.

CONCLUSION

66. The report has presented work of the Authority in relation to archaeology. It is evident from the work that has taken place that significant progress has been made in several areas. The Authority plays a pivotal role in community engagement of archaeology in the National Park and work covering this is extensive. It has also contributed and supported a number of projects. The fact that partnerships at a local, regional and national level have grown or strengthened over the period can only increase the likelihood that the Authority will achieve its aspirations in relation to cultural heritage. Whilst some progress has been made regarding the state of scheduled monuments, it is clear more needs to be done. The report has also highlighted a number of areas that should be prioritised during 2020 – 2021 and beyond.
67. Perhaps the most striking fact that has been highlighted by the report is the impact that COVID-19 has had on activities and priorities relating to archaeology and heritage. Undoubtedly this will affect the work of 2020 -2021, as it did at the end of 2019 – 2020. However, it is evident that the reduction in some activities has resulted in a burst of progress in other areas. As a result of COVID-19, work on developing a management system for scheduled monuments is much more advanced than it otherwise would have been. The current situation has also provided time to reflect on where best to prioritise the Authority's efforts in relation to archaeology and more broadly cultural heritage in the future. The COVID-19 crisis has and will continue to have a devastating impact on the health and wellbeing of many people, as such providing provisions to help alleviate these issues will be crucial as part of the recovery process. Time and time again, studies have shown that the impact of heritage on wellbeing can be significantly positive. As is clear from this report, the Authority is involved in many community engagement activities relating to archaeology and it is likely that these will have had and will continue to have a positive impact on people, communities and the wider public's wellbeing. As such, in addition to heritage management priorities, it is important that engagement work in relation to archaeology continue.