

Report of: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

Subject: Well-being Objective Deep Dive/ Self-Assessment: Connection - To create a Park that is a natural health service that supports people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage.

Management Team Leads: Head of Engagement and Inclusion. Head of Regenerative Tourism. Head of Nature Recovery. Head of People Services.

Outcomes for Objective:

- People are supported to lead a more physically active lifestyle by accessing the National Park, through promoting sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities.
- People are supported to report that accessing the National Park has had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing.
- Provide support to enable people of all ages to develop an understanding of the National Park.
- PCNPA has helped address where possible the barriers that can impact on people from diverse backgrounds or facing socio-economic disadvantage from connecting with nature and heritage opportunities in the Park.
- Infrastructure is maintained, including the Public Rights of Way network, heritage assets and access points to enable people to continue to gain access to and enjoy the National Park.
- Historic assets in the National Park are protected and appreciated.

Outcomes this report is focusing on:

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1. Progress Assessment

Delivery Plan	Activities [The things that are being done with these resources]	Inputs [The resources (staff, time, money) being put into an intervention]	Outputs [A count of what has happened as a result of these activities]	Outcomes [The immediate consequences and change.]	Impact [The higher level and longer-term results.]
Health, Well-being and Access	Provide and promote a resource of outdoor mobility aids to enable more equitable access to the NP. Provide an accessible booking system with ability to take donations to support the cost of servicing the wheelchairs.	Get Outdoors 1.6 FTE co-ordinator Apr – Aug 2025 1 FTE co-ordinator Aug 25 - Mar 2025. Supported by 0.8 FTE Health and Wellbeing Team Leader. Get Outdoors Partnership Programme launched by PCNT.	Beach wheelchair/ mobility equipment bookings have almost doubled to 830 in 2025/26 compared to 427 in 2024/26. Partner networking event held in March to support the new partnership approach.	The new booking system and promotion have increased use. Donations starting to contribute to the cost of equipment maintenance. Feedback from beach wheelchair and mobility equipment users remains extremely positive.	People are able to access the National Park independently and are supported to become confident use the outdoors to benefit their health and wellbeing, regardless of their circumstances or mobility. PCNPA services are increasingly adaptable and accessible to all.
	Provide supported group health and wellbeing activities such as walking, practical volunteering and outdoor	Get Outdoors wellbeing walks - Currently co-ordinated by Health and Wellbeing Team Leader.	Get Outdoors walks saw 2980 supported walking participants during 2025/6. reduced since then without a staff resource to support	Participants in our Get Outdoors activities report better health and wellbeing as a consequence of taking part.	People have better long-term physical and mental health outcomes and have a deeper sense of connection with the

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	experiences targeted at people who may face barriers to accessing the NP		the development of new groups our dedicated team of volunteer walk leaders and Rangers have enabled wellbeing walking activity to continue.	Donations have enabled hot drinks to be bought for walk participants.	National Park and nature as a consequence of their involvement in our programmes of work. Barriers to engagement with the National Park are understood and addressed whenever possible.
		Roots to Discovery Project in partnership with Mind Pembrokeshire funded by Lottery People and Places Fund.	487 participants across 65 sessions See separate report for further details.	Participants report that their mood and mental health improves as a result of connection with others, physical activity in the outdoors and involvement in local projects.	
	Investors in Carers Bronze Award	Health and Wellbeing Team Leader is gathering evidence to towards achieving the Bronze level award for the Authority.	Awareness training for all staff. Carers Impact statement and audit of services is in production. The Roots to Discovery project	Quality assurance scheme to demonstrate the Authority's awareness and support for carers in delivering our work.	

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			has carers and young carers as a focus.		
	See Cymru Differently RNIB project - work focused at our Castell Henllys site)		See Case study below		
Pembrokeshire Life and Culture	Infrastructure is maintained, including the Public Rights of Way network, heritage assets and access points to enable people to continue to gain access to and enjoy the National Park	Countryside Team Access Improvement Grant	4.46km of Rights of Way enhanced or created <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brynberian – see case studies below • Greenala - 80m of Coast Path regraded and realigned around a gully. • Path at Whitesands moved inland and widened to 4m. • Port Lion realignment – see case studies below. • Accessibility improvements to a stretch of river path running from 	87.45% of Rights of Way open, accessible and meeting Quality Standard.	Ensures Rights of Way network is in place for communities and visitors to participate in physical activities and connect to special qualities of the Park which benefits their physical and mental health. Ensuring one of the Park's public health assets is in place that enables people to implement 5 ways to well-being in

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			<p>Haverfordwest to Cunnigar on the Western Cleddau, including removal of four stiles and replacement with two gates, and improved surfacing 2km.</p> <p>The Authority continues to manage a Coast Path and Inland Rights of Way network that due to its nature requires significant vegetation cutting investment with over 1,317 tasks completed in 2025/26 by our Countryside Team.</p>		<p>their daily life or when visiting the Park.</p> <p>Removing stiles and creating accessible routes helps remove barriers to enable more people to access the physical and mental health benefits of our ROW network.</p>
	Traeth Mawr Access Improvement Work	Significant staff time, Buildings Project officer and team.	Significant capital enhancement and access project at	An enhanced visitor experience with a more	Communities and visitors can participate in

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		Funding from National Park, Brilliant Basics and WG Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places.	Traeth Mawr which incorporates ramp and disabled access to the beach, Beach wheelchair huts, toilet facilities and changing places facilities as well as improving biodiversity of public space and car park. £750,000 capital project with funding from WG Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding. Completion June 2026	attractive, accessible and greener car park, beach access and toilet and changing places facility.	physical activities and connect to special qualities of the Park which benefits their physical and mental health, regardless of their mobility or disability.
	Improving access at National Park sites and Coastal locations	Staff time and funding	Capital work started at Carew Castle and Castell Henllys on accessibility - Carew visitor management and access and a	An enhanced visitor experience with a more accessible visitor sites and beach access.	Communities and visitors can participate in physical activities and connect to special qualities of the Park which

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			ramp at Castell Henllys. An electric vehicle has been purchased at Castell Henllys to help visitors with mobility issues to access the whole site. Work has been commissioned for designs to improve the access/ ramp at Angle beach and facilities at Poppit Sands.		benefits their physical and mental health, regardless of their mobility or disability.
	Partnership working with PCC and a financial contribution to keep 10 coastal public toilets open.	Staff time and financial contribution of £122,986.38 per year to Pembrokeshire County Council for public toilets at 10 coastal locations to remain open, as year two of two-year agreement.	10 toilet facilities across the National Park remain open.	Toilets kept open that were at threat of closure, following request from Pembrokeshire County Council.	More people are able to access the National Park independently, including those with health conditions, older people and young families.

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	Historic assets in the National Park are protected and appreciated	Safeguarding Ancient Monument Scheme	177 visits to monuments by heritage volunteers or staff – 2025/26 30 monuments where improvement/ maintenance work has taken place during the financial year	Monitoring visits support the development of work programmes and then practical improvements to sites alongside identification of heritage crime incidents and follow on remedial work.	
Engagement, Involvement and Learning about the Park	Provide a range of volunteering and social action activities that support delivery of the Authority's Well-being Objectives.	Pathways project	3540 volunteer hours contributed during 2025/6 including 846 hours of volunteers providing support to others. See presentation for further information about Pathways.		Contributes to National Indicators for Wales: Percentage of people who volunteer.
		Rangers Next Generation (see case study below)	4,513 Volunteer hours and 1,020 social action hours supporting Rangers to		Contributes to National Indicators for Wales: Percentage of

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			deliver practical nature conservation and community projects in 2025/26. Our Next Generation Youth Rangers met monthly 2,209 Social Action Hours contributed in 2025/26		people who volunteer.

2. Case Studies

2.1 Interpretation at Castell Henllys

The refreshed exhibition space tells the story of the excavations and experimental archaeology that have taken place at Castell Henllys since 1980. Within the exhibition there is the opportunity for visitors to listen to short audio clips of archaeologists, students and local volunteers sharing their memories and understanding of the site. Two of the seven people who were interviewed are Welsh speakers, and the remaining audio will be overdubbed in Welsh before we install QR codes on the panels to direct visitors to a web page where they can listen to it.

As part of the See Cymru Differently project, we have completed a first draft of the audio description for the images on the new interpretation panels. This is currently being reviewed by our partners, and once the final draft has been signed off later this summer, RNIB intend to recruit student volunteers from the local area to record the audio descriptions in both English and Welsh. The audio description will be available via the UniDescription app, which blind and visually impaired people will access via an NFC tag that sends a notification to users' mobile phones. We have recently had a number of the original artefacts from the site returned to us by Liverpool University. These have been added to a display case, and we are about to start writing the audio descriptions for those.

On one of the panels, we have a 3D printed tactile map based on the Lidar data for Castell Henllys and the surrounding landscape. There is also a dress-up area for children and families. Because of the narrowness of the exhibition room in Pantglas we were constrained on producing any further interactives as we also had to consider physical access for wheelchair users.

The main tactile and sensory experience at Castell Henllys remains the reconstructed roundhouses up on the hillfort. A wider aspect of the Brilliant Basics funded project was commissioning replica artefacts and handling objects for costumed interpreters to share with visitors and enhance their experience and understanding of the past.



3D printed map of Castell Henllys

2.2 Ranger-led Connection Opportunities

The Ranger team delivers a diverse range of opportunities for groups and individuals to connect with the National Park, develop their understanding of its special qualities and benefit their well-being. During 2025/6 these included:

- Tree maintenance with young people at a new woodland site dedicated to the memory of a young person. Participants learned about tree planting methods, maintenance techniques, and the importance of biological connectivity within the landscape. The site is a Greener Camping Club site and part of our Conserving the Park scheme.

- Engagement with young people including supporting 16 young people to complete the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and providing practical challenges for the Pembrokeshire College Employability Course students and National Park Youth Rangers. These activities provide practical conservation experience while helping participants build confidence, skills, and a stronger connection to the National Park.
- Bird box making with a variety of groups including Ysgol Bro Ingli and Urdd Adran Maenclochog.
- Forest School activities with Ysgol Llanychllwydog, including bug hunts, tree ageing and tree id walks.
- Guided walk for world oceans day at Pen Dinas interpreting seabird life cycles, cetaceans and geology.
- Training events were led for outdoor providers through the Outdoor Charter Group, including a guided walk around Stackpole estate and coast, Importance of the Cleddau for wetland birds and natural history coastal walks. These sessions were designed to upskill instructors in both the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape, strengthening their understanding of local ecology, geology, and human history. This will enable providers to deliver richer, more informed experiences for their clients, helping visitors develop a deeper appreciation of the National Park.
- Technical assistance and support were provided to Carew Community Council to develop their Nature Recovery Action Plan as part of their Section 6 duties under the Environment (Wales) Act. Support included mapping, legislative guidance, ecological advice, and conservation input. The plan was adopted, published online, and submitted to Welsh Government in 2026. As a result of the plan, several partnership projects were identified and the South Ranger supported their delivery, including the creation of a wildflower meadow at Milton play area and the launch of the Carew Swift Box Project to support local biodiversity and species recovery.
- Attendance at local agricultural shows and community events. This year's engagement activity included a model rockpool inviting children to make plasticine sea creatures. An excellent way of sparking conversation about marine conservation.



Rangers and volunteers met over 400 people at Lamphey Show in August 2025. Children at the show helped to create a model rockpool filled with sea creatures.

2.3 Public Rights of Way Improvements

Improving connections between people, places and nature has been central to recent access projects across the network, with a strong focus on delivering practical on the ground improvements.

- At Brynberian, Footpaths PP71/17 and PP71/23 have been successfully reopened following a two-year programme of works to restore a previously inaccessible route. This included extensive vegetation clearance to reopen overgrown sections, targeted surface upgrades to improve usability in wet conditions, and the repair and replacement of path furniture to remove barriers to access. Delivered through a collaborative approach with Rangers, Wardens and volunteers, these works have created a more accessible and welcoming route, enabling people to reconnect with the landscape and benefit from being outdoors.



Path improvements in Brynberian

- On Footpath PP46/2 between Llangwm and Port Lion, a significant landslip required the closure of the original route due to safety concerns.



Location of Port Lion path repairs



Port Lion path before repairs

In response, and after negotiations with the landowner a new alternative route was carefully identified and constructed through nearby woodland. Practical works included the use of a mini excavator to cut in and grade a new path line, installation of post and rail fencing with a supporting handrail for user safety, and surfacing improvements using stone and a Type 1 finish to provide a durable, all-weather route. These interventions have ensured that this important link remains open, maintaining access to the countryside and supporting continued use by local residents and visitors.



Port Lion path after repairs

- Public Footpath PP25/9, linking Haverfordwest to the wider southern rights of way network, has also benefitted from a programme of hands-on improvements to enhance accessibility and resilience. Works included the removal of redundant stiles and installation of more accessible timber pedestrian gates, the fitting of a galvanised Bristol gate to accommodate both agricultural and public access, and the upgrading of gateway surfaces with stone to reduce seasonal impacts. In addition, ageing timber boardwalk sections were replaced with durable hardwood materials to improve safety and longevity. Collectively, these practical improvements have made the route easier to use for a wider range of people, strengthening

connections between communities and green spaces, and supporting health and wellbeing, particularly in local communities.



Western Cleddau path 25/9 before repairs



Boardwalk after repairs path 25/9



New Bristol gate, path 25/9

Throughout these works, staff from across multiple departments have come together, demonstrating the value of cross department working in delivering practical improvements and strengthening connections between communities, nature and the wider landscape.

3. Challenges and Opportunities

Our engagement and inclusion work depends on our staff to engage and deliver meaningful opportunities that impact positively on people's lives. The Engagement and Inclusion staff team work flexibly to deliver multiple strands of externally funded project work and are well-networked in the county to seek out and deliver new opportunities when they arise and meet the demands of multiple funding partners. The requirement for the team to continuously innovate to meet external funding demands does however present challenges in delivering sustained improvements and long-term change.

Revenue funding to maintain the staff resource is the greatest challenge in this area of work and we are finding it increasingly difficult to find external funding for some of our long-running and successful projects such as First 1000 Days, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools and Get Outdoors. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust launched a new Get Outdoors Partnership Programme in November 2025 exploring a sponsorship model to support our outdoor mobility work.

The team have sought to plug gaps where services have been impacted by budget challenges, such as our wellbeing and public guided walks programme by supporting increased volunteer involvement, but this is limited by staff capacity.

Teams across the Authority continue to work collaboratively to deliver cross cutting projects with outcomes for both nature and people such as the Naturally Connected Project funded by the Nature Networks Fund which continues to support our Pathways programme.

The infrastructure and facilities that people depend on for access such as our path network, car parks, beach access ramps and Centre facilities are increasingly impacted by the effects of a changing climate in addition to the regular maintenance and routine improvements required. We use the opportunity that site improvements bring, to build in new accessibility features and work with partner organisations and groups to understand what features will bring the most valued improvements. Whilst the Authority has been successful in bringing in capital funding for improvement projects this is often time-limited and presents challenges with project delivery.

4. Financial and Resource Considerations

The Authority's connection agenda is largely delivered through externally funded projects in an increasingly challenging funding landscape. There is increasing competition for grant funding, and we are required to continuously innovate to be competitive. We are exploring different approaches to fundraising in this area, but it is too early to say if these will be effective.

5. Contribution to Cross Cutting Outcomes:

Cross Cutting Outcome	Contribution – Activities and Impact
Sustainable Development Principles – 5 ways of working	Involvement is central to the approach of the Authority when developing its inclusion focused projects. The Authority is engaging beneficiaries in

	<p>shaping projects informed by their lived experiences for example, in the development of the Routes to Discovery project. To deliver projects effectively in this space, the Authority recognises the importance of working collaboratively with partners with expertise who already have relationships with the people our projects are seeking to benefit. The Authority uses a stakeholder mapping approach to developing new projects.</p> <p>The projects and work programmes play an important preventative role linked to the wider public health and social prescribing agenda in supporting improved mental health, physical activity, well-being and the health benefits of accessing the outdoors. Activities are designed to support the 5 ways to well-being.</p> <p>Our engagement work is diverse, working with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities including those with health conditions. Activities in this area take an integrated approach, supporting wider Pembrokeshire strategies and priorities particularly in relation to early years and response to child poverty. One of the challenges in terms of taking long term approaches is the need to rely on project funding, this impacts on how projects are delivered.</p>
Public Sector Equality Duty/ Socio Economic Duty / Reducing Child Poverty	Projects and activities play a central role in supporting the Authority to deliver its Equality Objectives and Plan. Through collaborative working and building new relationships the Authority is helping break down barriers to accessing the Park. The Authority's social action initiatives support young people with skills development and First 1000 Days and Education initiatives support children to access the National Park regardless of their circumstances.
Promoting Welsh Language	Tirlun is providing a set of Welsh Language education resources about Designated Landscapes that can be used for education purposes throughout Wales. There were 2180 participants in education sessions facilitated in Welsh in 2025/26 representing 25% of our education delivery.

Section 6 Biodiversity Duty / Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	Our volunteering and social action programmes support people to experience nature and take action to protect it, helping to deliver our Nature Recovery programmes. Through working collaboratively with other organisations/ groups we support increased access to nature for underrepresented groups or those who face additional barriers.
Engagement with Communities and Stakeholders	Stakeholder mapping and engagement with beneficiaries informs our project development. The Authority has an annual participant survey targeting regular volunteers and participants in our activity programmes. We have developed a positive relationship with range of local schools and teachers in Pembrokeshire. The Ranger Service provides a first point of contact for communities within the park and supports local community action for nature. The Pembrokeshire Local Access Forum provides important stakeholder input into our Access and Rights of Way programme and priorities.
Staff Development / Volunteering Opportunities	Alongside providing opportunities to experience nature, projects support participants to act for nature including volunteering and social action opportunities. Get Outdoors is supported by voluntary walk leaders. Our Equality plan includes an action on integrating training needs on delivering accessible and inclusive services into development of wider staff, Members and volunteer training plans, including sourcing specialist training for relevant staff and volunteers. Staff will also increase their understanding through feedback from engagement with beneficiaries.

6. Overall Assessment and Next Steps

The Authority continues to make good progress towards the highlighted objectives in delivering a wide range of opportunities and facilities which benefit participants' and visitors' health and wellbeing and achieve positive outcomes for the environment. Projects such as Routes to Discovery and See Cymru Differently demonstrate the value of our partnership approach to project delivery

which enables us to deliver effective and innovative work and improvements such as the Traeth Mawr project will mark a step-change in accessibility to the coast.

There is significant risk to the achievement of our Connection outcomes over the long term, given the project-based nature of our work in this area and the reliance on grant funding to achieve it. Integrating our connection agenda with our nature recovery and decarbonisation work is a priority for the future.