#### REPORT OF THE BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

#### SUBJECT: CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT 2016 - 2017

- 1. The attached Report sets out what outcomes are being achieved for this National Park through our conservation and historic environment work.
- 2. The report sets out the:
  - The land management monitoring results for 2016 to 2017
  - Specific examples of achievements under the 'Conserving the Park' scheme
  - Progress made on the management of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority owned sites
  - An introduction to our new strand of work covering the historic environment.
  - Stitch in Time and Naturally Connected progress
  - Work with Volunteers and Monitoring
  - Training and Events
  - 3. The report illustrates the substantial amount of work the Authority undertakes across a range of activities. The main contributors internally are the officers in Park Direction, the Warden Teams and the Ranger Service.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Members are requested to RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Report.

(For further information contact Sarah Mellor on extension 4829)

# Conservation Land Management and Historic Environment Report 2016 to 2017



**Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority** 



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This report details the work and outcomes of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Conservation Land Management programme and the Historic Environment programme for the Financial Year 2016-17.

# **Conservation Land Management**

#### Introduction

- 1. As part of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's land management programme, conservation work is carried out on over one hundred sites, a total of approximately 4176¹hectares (7% of the National Park), aimed at benefitting priority habitats and species within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. This is achieved through the management of the National Park Authority's owned or leased estate and also through working in partnership with private landowners through our 'Conserving the Park' scheme.
- 2. In addition, we engage in specific projects, either through direct delivery or as part of a partnership. At any one time we may have a number of live projects aimed at engaging landowners in a particular aspect of land management, for example control of non-native invasive species through the 'Stitch in Time' and 'Naturally Connected' projects.
- 3. This report details the work and outcomes for the financial year 2016-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This figure is derived from GIS data held by the National Park Authority and provides our best estimate as to the total area where the National Park Authority is supporting positive land management for biodiversity. The figure covers three categories of land:

<sup>1.</sup> Property owned or leased by the National Park Authority managed for biodiversity: 463ha

<sup>2.</sup> Land managed for biodiversity in partnership with private land owners: 963ha, of which 378ha is under a formal management agreement.

<sup>3.</sup> Access land where the National Park Authority supports commons management partnerships: 2750.37ha

# 1. Land Management Monitoring Results

4. The Authority's conservation work covers a diverse range of activities and is normally individually tailored to sites. The practical elements of our conservation work are carried out in partnership with the Delivery team, including volunteers.

# Typical activities include:

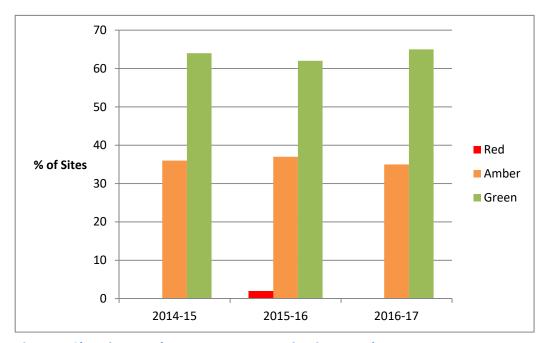
- Ecological survey and monitoring.
- Vegetation management e.g. burning and cutting.
- Facilitation of conservation grazing.
- Management agreements with landowners.
- Capital projects associated with land management such as fencing, gates and water supply.
- Woodland management.
- Advice on conservation management and grant schemes including agrienvironment schemes and burning plans.
- Practical assistance through the warden and ranger teams (for example assistance with tasks such as burning, cutting, fencing and scrub management)
- Feedback and on-going discussion with landowners regarding progress and challenges
- 5. Conservation sites in the active work programme are subject to formal audit visits which are written up and recorded on file. During formal visits, sites are assigned a Red, Amber or Green category<sup>2</sup>.

# **Monitoring Results**

- 6. During the monitoring period of 2016-17, over 50% of sites on the conservation work programme received a formal monitoring visit and assessment. All other sites, however, are visited informally throughout the year to discuss particular issues with landowners, to assess grazing livestock and their impacts, etc.
- 7. The monitoring scheme covers sites under the Conserving the Park scheme as well as land owned by the Authority.
- 8. The graph below shows the monitoring results for 2016-17. Results from previous years are included for comparative purposes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1 for a description of the monitoring method

9. The results are very similar, with the majority of sites assigned an amber or green category. This indicates that sites on both Authority-owned land and on land managed in partnership with private landowners continue to be managed in line with nature conservation objectives. A single site (an Authority-owned site) was assessed as being in red condition in 2015-16 due to a grazing issue; this has now been resolved.



**Figure 1 Showing Land Management Monitoring Results** 

# 2. Conserving the Park

- 10. Conserving the Park is the Authority's flagship scheme for working with private landowners within the National Park. It has proved a powerful tool in delivering practical land management for key habitats and species and is the key vehicle for delivering first purpose conservation objectives in the National Park Management Plan, the Authority's Corporate and Resources Plan and the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 11. Conserving the Park<sup>3</sup> evolved from the highly successful Conserving the Coastal Slopes project which was the practical answer to the Authority's Chough Conservation Strategy 1996. Further background on this project can obtained from the project report which neatly outlines the challenges for conservation management of semi-natural habitats within the Park and is as relevant today as it was in 2002.

#### **Focus on Adders**

12. Our management of coastal and upland heaths and grasslands is rarely targeted at specific species and is generally aimed at creating a diverse mosaic which can support a wide range of typical species. These habitats are a stronghold for reptiles in particular, including adders, grass snakes, slow worms and common lizards; these species are all protected in law but have suffered significant declines over the last few decades. This year we linked up with local reptile experts and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC Trust) to survey a number of sites including Hill Farm (Manorbier) and the Authority's restoration site, Penlan.

The work recognised that cutting, our burning and grazing does create ideal habitats for reptiles, offering range opportunities for sheltering, foraging and basking.



13. However adders are particularly vulnerable to burning and cutting management in the winter when they hibernate communally under mature gorse, as well as in old walls or rock piles. The survey on Hill Farm identified a number of potential hibernacula to be safeguarded during burning practices.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Appendix 2 for more information on the Conserving the Park Scheme

14. We are hoping to extend and expand this work over the coming years.

# **Pale Dog Violet**



- 15. The pale dog violet, Viola lactea, is classed as endangered in England vulnerable and in the UK. Pembrokeshire is one of its most important UK strongholds, where its survival has been greatly assisted by active grazing and burning of heathlands. The decline of such practices along with heathland reclamation explains why it is now endangered England. in Pembrokeshire and other Welsh heathlands were left unmanaged, it would not be long before it became endangered here too.
- 16. We have therefore been very pleased to see pale dog violet appear on some of our managed coastal sites this year, where it has never been recorded before. It seems to pop up about two years

after burning. New locations for this unusual plant include Tresinwen Farm near Strumble Head.

#### **Ragwort Management Strategy**

17. Ragwort management is carried out annually at several sites by wardens, rangers and volunteers. A proliferation of ragwort at our sites prompted the creation of a strategy developed by staff from several departments.

As part of this strategy we are now tackling some sites with chemical control

which allows us to plan ahead and prevent problem before it occurs. than last-minute rather scrambles to sort the problem afterwards. All of our 100+ sites have now been assigned a priority and resources allocated accordingly.

18. Ragwort is an important species for wildlife with over 30 invertebrates spending



on ragwort as a food plant, the most noticeable of which is the yellow and

black stripy caterpillar of the Cinnabar moth which can often be seen on ragwort in great numbers. However ragwort is also poisonous to livestock both fresh when animals are grazing and also when dried in hay. As a land owner, the Authority has a legal duty to prevent the spread of ragwort to other people's land. The strategy is part of taking a balanced approach to ragwort management and making best use of available resources.

#### **New sites in 2016-17**

- 19. This year has seen a number of our sites/farms change ownership, so rather than signing up new sites, much time has been focussed this year on trying to continue our conservation work with new owners. On the whole, they have been receptive and our involvement has continued.
- 20. It was very disappointing however, to see one of sites near destroyed by a new owner and to find that this destruction lay outside the current Uncultivated Land Regulations.

# 3. Pembrokeshire Grazing Network

- 21. This year the Pembrokeshire Grazing Network supported grazing on 42 sites covering a total of 335ha.
- 22. This year we met with other partners in the Grazing Animals Network including the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales and the Wildlife

Trust of South and West Wales. The obiective was to detailed share information about all sites Pembrokeshire to see if the system could run any more efficiently. Overall. the conclusion was that the current



system was working well and only a few minor tweaks were proposed.

# 4. Pembrokeshire National Park Authority owned sites

# **Managing for Butterflies at Sychpant**

- 23. The north Volunteer Wardens at Sychpant have been involved in monitoring the site, in particular by carrying out an annual weekly butterfly transect through the spring and summer.
- 24. Fritillaries, such as the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, have been recorded at the site previously, but not for a number of years. They lay their eggs on or near violets which are their food plant, and larvae will hibernate amongst leaf litter before emerging the following spring.
- 25. Grazing is essential for this butterfly and the site is grazed by a local pony
  - owner, however bracken has become more dense and the incredibly steep nature of the site presents a huge challenge for bracken management.
- 26. Volunteers have therefore been drafted in to help cut and manage scallops of vegetation along the side of the path in order to provide



access for grazing animals. It will probably be a number of years before the vegetation changes but it will be interesting to see if we can detect any change from our butterfly monitoring.

#### **Porthgain Catchment Management**

27. lan Meopham and his volunteers have been managing Himalayan Balsam at our wet meadow site in Porthgain for a number of years. The meadow is right at the bottom of a small drainage catchment and it provided the perfect opportunity to apply the knowledge gained on



- invasive species eradication through the Stitch in Time Project.
- 28. A survey of the catchment revealed infestations further up the catchment from Porthgain and these were mapped and prioritised for control by contractors and volunteers.
- 29. Already this strategy has reduced the control burden at Porthgain and within another couple of years we should be pretty close to complete eradication. lan and his volunteers now plan to focus these extra resources on the Alun catchment, making a start on the highest infestation they can find.

#### **Planted Ancient Woodland Audits**

30. Ancient woodland is land that has been continually wooded since at least 1600AD. Some ancient woodland may even be a link back to the original "wildwood" that covered the country around 10,000 years ago, after the last ice age. Studies show that these woodlands are typically more ecologically

diverse and of a higher nature conservation value than those that have developed recently or where woodland cover on the site has been intermittent.

31. Almost half of the ancient woodland we have left has been planted with exotic trees (known as Planted Ancient Woodland Sites or PAWS). These can



significantly reduce woodland's biodiversity value and ultimately be responsible for the demise of certain woodland specialist species. However, research has shown that remnant ecological and historical features survive in most PAWS even amongst the conifer crops and that the condition of such features can be safeguarded and enhanced by careful woodland management.

- 32. Restoring these PAWS has been a key objective for the Authority in the Gwaun Valley woodlands and we now have only small areas remaining in Allt Pengegin and Allt Cilrhedyn.
- 33. With support from the Woodland Trust, Coed Cymru provided an audit of some of our woodland sites, including Cilrhedyn, Pengegin, Clun and Kilkiffeth to assess the PAWS restoration work carried out by the Authority. The reports concluded that those areas of woodland where conifer removal and restocking with native species had taken place could now be re-classified from 'Threatened' to 'Secure'.

34. The reports also highlighted the need for continuation of the restoration work on compartments which still have conifers present and are still classed as threatened.

#### Rare Bee at Freshwater East

35. Freshwater East is proving to be of considerable interest for solitary bees with another scarce bee recorded this year. *Coletes cunicularius* or the vernal bee was found in April, the first time it has ever been recorded in Pembrokeshire.

# **West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC)**

- 36. WWBIC is one of four Local Records Centres which together serve as a biodiversity data storage and management facility for the whole of Wales.
- 37. The purpose of this joint project was to mobilise all paper species data held by the Authority for incorporation into the WWBIC species database where it will be more readily available. Georgina Young from WWBIC spent 3 days per week over a period of 4 months collating data from site files, loose surveys in 4 box files and monitoring forms stored electronically on the network.
- 38. In total over nineteen thousand records were mobilised, the vast majority of those were flowering plants.

Taxon	Records	Taxon	Records
Alga	17	Horsetail	77
Amphibian	17	Insect	499
Annelid	5	Lichen	28
Bird	1039	Liverwort	8
Bony fish	1	Millepede	1
Bryozoan	1	Mollusc	14
Chromist	7	Moss	157
Cnidarian	5	Reptile	16
Conifer	16	Spider	1
Crustacean	12	Springtail	1
Fern	567	Stonewort	1
Flowering plant	17110	Terrestrial mammal	148

# 5. Historic Environment Report

# **New Community Archaeologist**

- 39. In February 2017 we welcomed Delun Gibby to the Park Direction team as Community Archaeologist. Delun is employed three days a week by the Authority. The main aim of this post is to bring people closer to the heritage of Pembrokeshire and to help them conserve it for future generations.
- 40. Delun will be encouraging people to engage with and value their local heritage by giving talks to the wider community and working with local communities and volunteers to record, monitor and care for archaeological sites in the National Park. Delun will also offer practical advice to landowners who have Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other archaeological features on their land.
- 41. Currently there are 11 scheduled monuments on land owned by the National Park Authority and 8 on land within land management agreements.
- The management of each scheduled monument is dependent on its location and environment. Some, such as Crugiau Cemaes round barrows are easier to manage, whereas the enclosure sites at Pengegin woods are proving to be more challenging.

# **Taking practical action**

42. Overall, there are over 250 scheduled monuments in the National Park and over 7000 recorded archaeological features. Where possible we will aid in the condition

assessment and management of these historic features through the work of rangers, wardens and volunteers.

43. Work has already been carried out at Foel Drygarn, Carn Meini on the Preseli Hills and Cerrig y Gof (see pictures) in Newport.



44. Field visits and monitoring continue to be undertaken over the coming year across all areas of the Park to build up a better picture of monuments in need of attention.

# **Raising Awareness**

45. In support of the presentations given by Geraint Jones, the impact and damage of uncontrolled burning on upland heritage sites was also presented. The presentations also proved successful in raising landowner awareness about scheduled monuments on their land, how controlled burning can help in its management and how to obtain appropriate consent if a burn is planned.

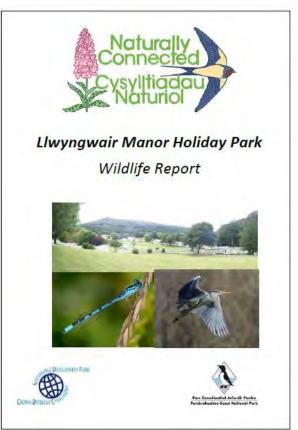
# 6. Projects

# **Naturally Connected**

46. We were successful in securing £12,300 from the Sustainable Development Fund to support a pilot for a new initiative specifically aimed at tourism businesses which own land within the National Park. The aim of the initiative is to encourage tourism business to adopt land management practices that provide suitable habitats for wildlife and also to promote local 'wildlife aware' visitor activities and experiences that will bring benefits to both the environment and also the business.

Seven businesses signed up to the take part in project. Manorbier Youth including Hostel, Brandy Brook Camping Site. Penhriw Hotel. Bluestone Brewery, Llwyngwair Manor, May Cottage and **Picton** Castle.

47. Each participating business received an ecological survey of their land along with an ecological report and recommendations for enhancement of their land and buildings for wildlife. The final report also included information wildlife on sites and within experiences the immediate locality of Together the report business. formed an ideal information pack which businesses could share directly with visitors.



48. We are now working with businesses to support them in delivering their wildlife projects with support from the Ranger service and a small biodiversity projects budget.

#### Stitch in Time

- 49. The SDF funded project came to an end in August 2017. The aim of the project was to trial the systematic eradication of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) from a catchment area. INNS Project Co-ordinator Matt Tebbutt was employed 2 days a week between January 2015 to August 2016 and full report of the project can be found here <a href="http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/default.asp?PID=743">http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/default.asp?PID=743</a>
- 50. During the project 65% of the Gwaun catchment was systematically surveyed for Himalayan Balsam, Japanese knotweed and Rhododendron generating 141 new INNS records for the area covering a total of 27ha.



- 51. 55% of all INNS recorded received
  - treatment through the project with control being carried out through a mixture of staff time, contractors and volunteers. Volunteers contributed 140 days of time to the project which worked with individuals as well as established groups such as the Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the Newport Paths Group and the St. Dogmaels Community Association.
- 52. A significant amount of time was also spent working on a Heritage Lottery bid to secure funds for project continuation. Submitted in September 2016, unfortunately this bid was rejected.
- 53. The project now continues through an allocation of Welsh Government Funding.

# 7. Species Monitoring

# **Annual Chough Monitoring**

- 55. The total number of occupied chough territories in 2016 was the highest since the start of the current annual surveillance programme and was 10 more than the previous highest number which was in 2015. The overall impression is that there is a continuing upward trend in the breeding population.
- 56. In 2016, there was some infilling of gaps between established territories and one or two traditional territories that had been vacant for several years were re-occupied, suggesting recruitment of several new pairs to the breeding population.

- 57. Some failures also occurred e.g. as a result of predation in the nest or, as was the case at a few sites, because "new" pairs were probably still in the process of becoming established and so did not breed. Failures occurred in 31% of occupied territories, and 18% of the nests that were known to have contained eggs went on to fail.
- 58. Productivity (expressed as the average number of young fledged per successful pair) was slightly down on 2015 suggesting that the picture is not straightforward.
- 59. The 2016 chough monitoring was carried out almost entirely by volunteers supported by expenses and assistance with lifts and access provided by various Authority staff.

# **Carew Castle Bat Monitoring**

- 60. The numbers and patterns of roost attendance by greater and lesser horseshoe bats in the castle in spring and autumn were similar to those observed in 2015 and in preceding years, and the castle continued to fulfil the ecological functions required by greater and lesser horseshoe bats. During the spring, the maximum number of greater horseshoe bats recorded in the castle during the evening counts was 18 on the 18<sup>th</sup> May (*c f* 17 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015). A total of 16 greater horseshoe bats were seen in the castle on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- 61. In September and October 2016, the numbers of bats seen during the evening visits were lower than in the spring although they were very similar to those observed in the autumn in previous years.
- 62. The numbers of Natterer's bats and other *Myotis* species seen in the castle in 2016 were low, and there was little evidence to suggest that the maternity roost in the north-west tower was occupied and used as such. Small numbers of pipistrelle bats used the castle in spring and autumn 2016, and noctule bats were recorded flying/foraging above the castle and environs.
- 63. Bat monitoring at Carew Castle is carried out by volunteers.

# 7. Training, Events and Conferences

#### **UK National Parks Ecologist's Conference**

64. From the 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September Pembrokeshire Coast National Park hosted the annual UK National Parks Ecologists conference. Workshop sessions were hosted in the discovery room at Oriel y Parc and topics included practical experiences of natural flood management and as well as the practical challenges of mapping and conserving habitats at a landscape scale. Ant Rogers of the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership presented our recently developed the Land Use Planning Tool.

- 65. Site visits were made to Newgale to consider the threats and opportunities posed by coastal adaptation for nature conservation. We were then welcomed to Southwood Farm to look at the National Trust's approach to land use planning for multiple benefits including food production, soils, biodiversity and access.
- 66. After lunch at the Bug Farm we spent time at Caerhys Community Supported Agriculture Scheme, with a final stop at Strumble where there was a lot of interest in our coastal management programme and in particular the Pembrokeshire Grazing Animals Network.

# **WWBIC Data Access Tool Staff Training**

67. 5 members of staff received training on accessing data from WWBIC to see if this access to this data could help them in their work. WWBIC provided a morning training session outlined the use of the data access tool with practical exercises on searching, filtering and storing data.

# **Dormouse handling training**

68. The Biodiversity Officer and Woodland Wardens attended а training session at Cwm Clettwr led by the Wildlife Trust. The high degree of occupancy in their box scheme made us rather



jealous. We've had poor occupancy at our Pentre Ifan site and have now deployed a number of extra dormouse boxes in more of our woodlands in an attempt to sample populations there.

# Appendix 1 - Conservation Land Management Sites - Monitoring Methodology

#### Method

A formal assessment considers the species and habitats for which the site is being managed. Monitoring is different for each site depending on what we are trying to achieve through management. The timing of formal visits may be varied from year to year to assess a site with multiple features of interest.

#### Monitoring considers two things:

- i) The quality of the habitat which is discerned through the presence and abundance of typical positive indicator species (e.g. typical haymeadow flowers) and negative indicator species (e.g. nettles, docks) as recommended by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. We may also consider vegetation structure in terms of sward heights or the balance of scrub to grassland where these are critical to individual species. We carry out some selected specialist species monitoring for example skylark and marsh fritillary where appropriate.
- ii) Compliance with an on-going suitability of the management regime. This will include information on the appropriate timing of management interventions, the success of individual interventions for example bracken control, and physical audit of capital items.

Relying entirely on (i) above to provide a monitoring result is fraught with difficulty. Species can often 'hang on' in habitats of declining quality and natural population fluctuations driven by the weather, or other factors outside of our control can confound the interpretation of these results.

Therefore we combine the information provided by both (i) and (ii) with the professional judgement of experienced staff to assign the site to one of three categories (Red, Amber, Green). Adding a qualitative professional judgement element has been used very successfully in nature conservation scheme monitoring and this was used by the Countryside Council for Wales' (Natural Resources Wales legacy body) rapid review of SSSIs in 2006.

# **Explanation of Monitoring Categories**

RED	AMBER	GREEN
A site is judged to be	A site is judged to be	A site is judged to be
Red if:	Amber if:	Green when the
		management regime is
A serious or repeated	Management is	compliant, the
breach of management	considered compliant	management is effective
plan has taken place.	and effective but the	and the site is of high
	conservation value of the	quality and with high
Damaging activities	site will take time to	ecological integrity.
have taken place or	improve.	
features of interest		In the green category we
destroyed/partially	There is a positive	are often 'running to
destroyed.	direction of travel in	stand still' as
	terms of quality	maintenance of good
	improvement but with	condition requires
	minor deviations from	continued management.
	the management plan	
	which may slow recovery	Such sites may slip back
	or improvement of	to Amber if the land
	conservation value.	changes hands or the
	N4	owners' circumstances
	Management is	change.
	compliant but our	
	recommended	
	management is not	
	producing the expected	
	results.	

# Our response:

The Authority will make a judgement on whether to continue involvement with the site.

# Our response:

In the first case, the positive feedback is provided to the landowner.

In the second case we communicate with the landowner regarding ideal management practice and reasons for deviation, perhaps looking for alternatives.

In the third case we would work with the landowner to experiment with management. This is standard practice in nature conservation management and is referred to as 'adaptive' management.

# Our response:

Green sites may stay with the scheme requiring smaller amounts of intervention. For example a site which had capital expenditure such as gates and scrub control may now only need a small amount of on-going assistance with grazing animals.

For some sites continued support may be the only option for retaining the conservation interest of the site.

Some of the detail of these responses are only relevant to the Conserving the Park scheme, but for the broad principles apply across all the Authority's conservation portfolio.

# **Appendix 2 'Conserving the Park' Scheme**

# **Background**

'Conserving the Park' is Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's flagship scheme for working with private landowners within the National Park. It has proved a powerful tool in delivering practical land management for key habitats and species and is our key vehicle for delivering first purpose conservation objectives in the National Park Management Plan, the Authority's Corporate Improvement Plan and the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Conserving the Park evolved from the highly successful 'Conserving the Coastal Slopes' project, which was the practical answer to the Authority's Chough Conservation Strategy. Further background on this project can be obtained from the excellent project report, which neatly outlines the challenges for conservation management of semi-natural habitats within the National Park and which is as relevant today as it was in 2002.

# Why is it needed?

Habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, marshy grasslands and woodlands and coastal slopes all contribute to the rich diversity of wildlife in the National Park. These semi-natural habitats suffer from a range of issues such as land abandonment, inappropriate stock, lack of grazing and lack of traditional vegetation management.

Outside of designated areas there are gaps in the support available to landowners who aspire to manage their land for the benefit of wildlife. The Conserving the Park scheme aims to fill these gaps, and also to facilitate access to other sources of support and to add value where possible. It is important to note that the scheme is not intended to compete with, or replace existing schemes.

The scheme supports community spaces such as churchyards, which often hold remnants of ancient flower-rich grassland. Volunteers help out with the annual cut and rake which produces an abundance of spring and summer flowers and excellent pollinator habitat at Stackpole Churchyard.

#### How does the scheme work?

Landowners enter the scheme by two main avenues. They may see the scheme information on our flyers or on our website and contact us directly, or as is often the case they are referred to us by one of our partners, for example NRW.

Sites are visited and assessed for current conservation value and condition and their potential to deliver conservation outcomes for priority habitats and species. The list of priority habitats and species are taken from the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Pembrokeshire which provides action plans for European Annex 1 habitats and Annex 2 species and UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species in Pembrokeshire, as well as those of local concern.

The Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership consists of a wide range of statutory and non-governmental organisations and voluntary organisations. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan is regularly updated and reviewed by a core steering group of key partners including NRW, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales - ensuring information is relevant and up to date. A list of priority habitats and species can be found in Appendix 1 of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Please click

https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/biodiversity/pembrokeshire-nature-partnership-plans-and-guidance



#### **Process**

Check the site is eligible by deciding whether it supports/is capable of supporting priority habitats and species.



Identify the ideal management regime.



Discuss management with the owner and identify barriers to management (such as lack of stock, inability to carry out work, lack of site infrastructure) and sources of alternative funding such as agri-environment schemes.



Barriers to management removed by selecting items from the toolkit (below).



Management and toolkit support agreed with the owner and site enters the scheme. Annual monitoring provides owners with ongoing support and progress updates on their management.

# The Toolkit approach

The Toolkit approach was developed during the Conserving the Coastal Slopes Programme. It is highly effective as it can tailor solutions to site management issues and therefore offer highly targeted support.

