
Application Ref: NP/13/0539

Application Type	Full
Grid Ref:	SN11773887
Applicant	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Agent	Mr P Songhurst, Imagine Makers Design & Consulting
Proposal	Install a sense of arrival totem pole at the main entrance to the site
Site Location	Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3UT
Case Officer	Matt Dash

Summary

This application seeks approval for the erection of a carved Timber Totem Pole at the main entrance to the Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort site within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The proposal is not considered to cause any significant detrimental impact upon the amenity of neighbouring properties or on the Special Qualities of the National Park as it will not be visually intrusive or insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape. The application is therefore considered to comply with the relevant policies of the LDP and as such is recommended for approval.

The application has been referred to the Development Management Committee due to the applicant being the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

Consultee Response

PCNPA Access Officer - No objection

Eglwysrwr Community Council – No response received at time of writing this report.

Public Response

The application was advertised by site notice displayed at the site on 10th December 2013. No letters have been received from third parties.

Policies considered

Please note that these policies can be viewed on the Policies page Pembrokeshire Coast National Park website - <http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=549>

LDP Policy 01 - National Park Purposes and Duty

LDP Policy 07 - Countryside

LDP Policy 08 - Special Qualities

LDP Policy 15 - Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

LDP Policy 29 - Sustainable Design
LDP Policy 30 - Amenity
PPW5 Chapter 04 - Planning for Sustainability
PPW5 Chapter 06 - Conserving the Historic Environment
SPG03 - Loss of Hotels and Guesthouses
SPG08 - Affordable Housing
TAN 12 - Design

Officer's Appraisal

Background and Description

The application site is located along the metalled access road that leads from the A487 Trunk Road to the south, to the Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort. The access road runs northwards from the Trunk Road and runs down into a wooded valley that first winds right, then left, through the entrance gate and then bears to the left at a fork in the road arriving at the car park. The site boundary itself is behind the entrance gate to the right as you enter the site. The grade II listed St. Dogfael's Church is located approximately 26m to the west.

Constraints

- NPA Property – within 25m
- Biodiversity Issue
- Rights of Way Inland – within 50m
- Potential for surface water flooding
- Recreation Character Areas

Relevant Planning History

- NP/178/92 – Education/Interpretation Centre – Withdrawn 11th June 1992
- NP/363/92 – Educational Centre – Approved 7th October 1992
- NP/113/93 – Car Park – Approved 28th April 1993
- NP/262/96 – Portaloo – Approved 26th September 1996
- NP/008/97 – Erection of Toilet block for Public use – Approved 8th January 1997
- NP/041/98 – Iron Age Roundhouse – Approved 1st April 1998
- NP/99/403 – Portaloo toilet building – Approved 22nd October 1999
- NP/00/299 – Temporary residential occupation of roundhouse for historical documentary – Approved 15th September 2000
- NP/01/031 – Additional car parking – Cancelled 16th January 2001
- NP/01/141 – Provision of cattle access – Approved 23rd April 2001
- NP/01/143 – Erection of Oak post at entrance to car park – Approved 23rd April 2001
- NP/03/144 – Portaloo – Approved 23rd April 2003

- NP/04/258 – Erection of 2.5kw wind turbine & greenhouse – Approved 9th August 2004
- NP/04/561 – Erection of 2.5kw wind turbine – Approved 17th January 2005
- NP/05/295 – Temporary siting of portaloos for archaeology students – Cancelled 14th June 2005
- NP/06/373 – Temporary Portaloos for 5 years – Approved 13th December 2006
- NP/06/072 – Temporary change of use to living history exhibition with re-enactor living on site – Approved 24th March 2006

Current Proposal

This is an application made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of a sense of arrival Totem Pole at the main entrance to the Castell Henllys site within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The Totem Pole is to be relocated from further down the access road to the north where it is situated on the verge to the left of where the road forks. It is proposed to locate it on the grass verge to the east of the lane directly behind the timber pedestrian access gate.

The Totem Pole is 4.6m in height and 0.45m in diameter constructed from a carved timber tree trunk. It will be non-illuminated and will not contain any lettering.

The Origins project is part of the 'Makers of Wales' prehistoric strand of the Cadw pan-Wales interpretation plan. The funding comes from the Welsh Government's Heritage Tourism Project, which is backed with European funding. The project aims to maximise the economic value of heritage through increasing the volume, length and value of visits to Wales, linking themes of Welsh heritage at national, regional and local levels. The project will also make sure that Wales's outstanding heritage is more accessible and enjoyable to visit – for those who live in Wales and for visitors.

The funding will support the following PCNPA project:

- To enhance the site at Castell Henllys including developing it as a regional hub for the origins and prehistory of Wales.
- The upgrading of the Castell Henllys site, together with directional signs and interpretation panels all form part of this project.

In addition, the project is proposing the installation of interpretation panels/signs at various prehistory satellite sites throughout the North of the County within the National Park.

Key Issues

The main issues to be considered in this case are:

- Special Qualities of the National Park
- Amenity
- Setting of the adjacent Listed Building

Special Qualities of the National Park

Policy 8 of the LDP refers to the Special Qualities of the National Park and lists priorities to ensure that these qualities will be protected and enhanced. Policy 15 of the LDP seeks the conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park with criteria 'a' and 'b' resisting development that would cause significant visual intrusion and/or that would be insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape. Policy 30 of the LDP seeks to avoid development that is of an incompatible scale with its surroundings (criterion 'b') or is visually intrusive (criterion 'd').

The proposed Totem Pole measuring 4.6m in height is of a significant scale, but will however be dwarfed by many of the adjacent trees, some of which measure 10m plus. Although intricately carved, the timber pole will not be brightly coloured, therefore allowing it to blend in with the surrounding trees on both sides of the lane. The siting on the grass verge, which is adjacent to a steep bank approximately 2m in height to the east, and due to the lane leading down into a valley, will result in only half the height of the Totem Pole projecting above the bank, further reducing its visibility from a distance. The Pole will therefore only be visible in its entirety when the public turn as the access lane bends to the left and enter through the main gate to the site.

The proposal therefore will not have a detrimental impact upon the Special Qualities of the National Park.

Amenity

Policy 30 of the LDP refers to 'amenity' in general with criteria 'a' and 'b' seeking to avoid incompatible development and significant adverse impact upon the amenity enjoyed by neighbouring properties.

There are no neighbouring residential properties, there is therefore no adverse impact upon amenity.

Setting of the Adjacent Listed Building

The application site is located within proximity of the grade II listed St Dogfael's church. Planning Policy Wales (edition 5) November 2012 - Chapter 6 – Conserving Historic Environment states '*where a development proposal affects a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses*'

It is considered that the proposals are appropriately sited, and of an acceptable scale, mass and design which is sympathetic to the historical

context of its settings. As such the proposal will not detract from the integrity of the building's design, historical character or structure nor will it spoil or compromise its setting. Accordingly, the proposal is compliant with National guidance in respect of its setting adjacent to a listed building and can be supported.

Conclusion

The proposed Totem Pole is considered to be acceptable in principle and does not have an adverse impact upon the special qualities of the National Park, neighbouring amenity or the setting of the adjacent Listed Building. It therefore complies with the relevant policies of the LDP and as such is recommended for approval.

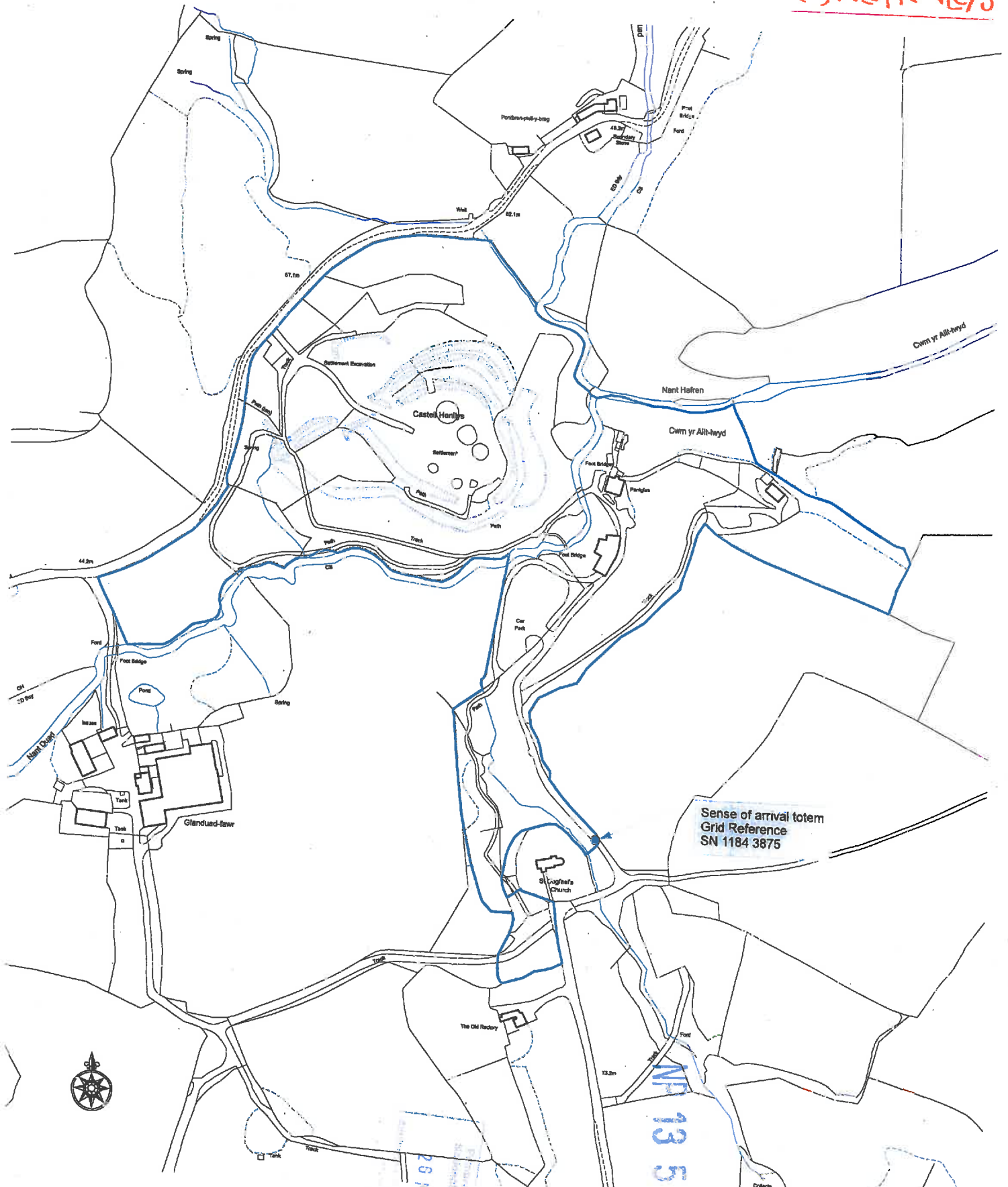
Recommendation:

The application be approved subject to conditions relating to the five year expiration date and to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

Castell Henllys - Origins

Item 6r)

Scale 1:2500



Sense of arrival totem
Grid Reference
SN 1184 3875

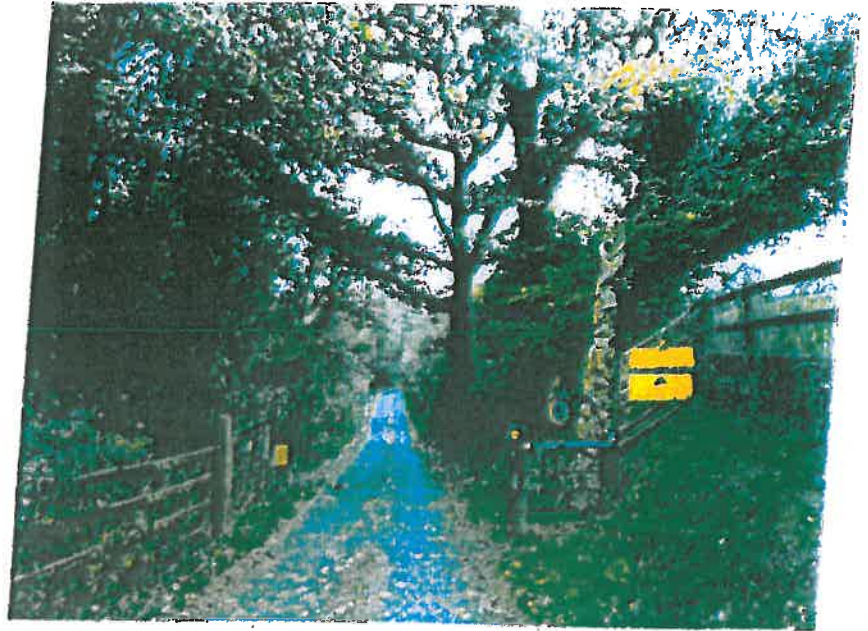
NP 13 5 3 9

28 NOV 2013

Castell Henllys Totem Pole



Totem in current location



Totem in proposed location

Totem is 4.6m tall x 0.45m diameter

NP 13 5 3 9

Drawing issue For planning	Re-location of totem
Drawn by PDS Checked by PDS	
Client: PCNPA	Date 24 th October 2013

Environment Wales
Planning & Authority
24 OCT 2013