
Application Ref: NP/13/0546

Application Type	Full
Grid Ref:	SN11773887
Applicant	PCNPA
Agent	Mr P Songhurst, Imagine Makers Design & Consulting
Proposal	Install 1 x coach park sign at Castell Henllys Iron Age Village
Site Location	Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3UT
Case Officer	Sian Davies

Summary

This is an application made under section 62 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (amended) for full Planning Permission. Planning permission is sought for the erection of timber posts supporting a wattle panel to which a printed composite aluminium sign will be secured. The proposal will replace the existing timber coach parking sign which is located within the area identified as the site's coach park on the entrance route in to the Castell Henllys site.

The proposal is considered to be appropriately sited and of an acceptable design and material which is compatible with the visual appearance and features of its setting. As such, the proposal will not adversely affect the special qualities of the National Park or the amenity of the immediate neighbourhood. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be compliant with the primary purposes of the National Park and subsequent policies 7, 8, 15, 29 and 30 of the Local Development Plan. As such the application is recommended for approval subject to appropriate conditions.

This application has been referred to the Development Management Committee as the applicant is the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

Consultee Response

PCNPA Access Officer: No objection

PCC - Transportation & Environment: No objection

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

Public Response

The application was advertised by a site notice displayed on the telegraph pole adjacent to the site on the 10th December 2013. No letters have been received at the time of this report.

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 05 - Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast
PPW5 Chapter 06 - Conserving the Historic Environment
SPG05 - Sustainable Design
SPG06 - Landscape
TAN 05 - Nature Conservation and Planning
TAN 12 - Design
TAN 13 - Tourism

Officer's Appraisal

Background and History

'The Origins Project'

Castell Henllys is one of many prehistoric promontory forts in the National Park with replica Iron Age roundhouses, built right on top of the excavated remains of an existing hill fort. The site is situated north of the A487 approximately 6.4km east from Newport.

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/sign at various prehistory satellite sites throughout the North of the county within the National Park.

The proposed timber posts supporting wattle panel will replace the existing site's coach park timber structure and will be situated within the same location. The proposal will be situated to the northern corner of the coach parking area inland from the main entrance road with trees and shrubbery immediately behind the application site. The grade II listed St Dogfael's church is situated to the northeast of the application site.

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 portaloo for archaeology students – Cancelled 14th June 2005
- NP/06/373 – Temporary Portaloo 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

Constraints

NPA Property – within 25m

Biodiversity Issue

Rights of Way Inland – within 50m

Recreation Character Areas

Current Proposal

Planning Permission is sought for the erection of timber posts supporting a wattle panel to which a printed composite aluminium sign will be secured. The proposal comprises two green logged timber posts measuring 2.6m high and a woven hazel wattle panel set in treated softwood timber frame measuring 2.1m high by 1.5m wide which is considered to be associated with the building techniques employed in the Iron Age. A white composite aluminium sign, measuring 1.8m high by 1.3m wide, with full colour and laminated print applied to face, will be secured to the main panel of the timber supporting structure. The sign is to advise visitors of the coach parking area and to assist visitors with orientating themselves around the site and to find their way to the main visitor hub.

An associated application for advertisement consent has been sought under reference NP/13/545

Key Issues

- Principle of Development
- Siting, sustainable design and special qualities of the National Park
- Neighbouring Amenity
- Setting of Listed Building

Principle of Development

The application site is situated along the entrance road to Castell Henllys which is considered to be in the countryside as defined within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan (LDP). The proposal is considered to be acceptable under criterion e) of Policy 7 in that a tourist attraction or recreational activity is proposed where the need to locate in the countryside is essential, as the proposed timber construction supports a sign which is related to the tourist attraction of Castell Henllys. As such the proposal is considered to be acceptable in principle.

Siting, Sustainable Design and Special Qualities of the National Park

Policy 8 of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) is a strategy policy which ensures that the special qualities of the National Park will be protected and enhanced. Of particular relevance is Policy 15 of the LDP which states that development will not be permitted if it causes significant visual intrusion (criterion a); failing to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape character of the National Park (criterion d); losing or failing to incorporate traditional features (criterion e). Furthermore policy 29 of the LDP states that all proposals will be expected to demonstrate an integrated approach to design and construction.

The proposed timber supporting structure will replace the existing yellow coach park sign and will be positioned within the same location. Whilst the proposed sign is considered to be quite large, the proposal will be dwarfed by

the trees and shrubbery that stand tall behind the application site. As such the sign will not appear to be visually intrusive within the immediate or distant landscape. In addition the proposal will not detract from the character and appearance of the grade II listed St Dogfael's church which is located to the northeast of the application site.

The accompanying design and access statement states that materials used will be from sustainable natural sources or inherently recyclable which will be in keeping with the features of the site. It is proposed that the timber will be from sustainable FSC accredited sources with natural finishes. Furthermore the sign uses a woven hazel backing panel which is associated with the building techniques employed in the Iron Age, with the hazel being sourced locally from a sustainable source with the intention of employing the services of local craftsmen to manufacture certain elements. As such it is considered that that proposal complies with policy 29 of the Local Development Plan.

In view of the above, it is considered that the proposal is appropriately sited and of an acceptable scale, design and material which is sympathetic to the character of the surrounding environs, and as such will not cause a significant visual intrusion within the immediate and distant landscape or adversely impact on the special qualities of the National Park. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be compliant with Policy 8, 15 and 29 and can be supported.

Neighbouring Amenity

Policy 30 of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development is a criteria based policy which states that development will not be permitted where it has an unacceptable impact on amenity particularly where a) the development is for a use inappropriate for where people live or visit and/or; b) the development is of a scale incompatible with its surroundings and/or; d) the development is visually intrusive.

The proposal is situated within a remote location along the entrance road to Castell Henllys, with neighbouring properties dispersed a fair distance away to the east, south and west of the application site which are screened from the proposal by mature trees and shrubbery. It is considered that the proposal is appropriately sited and of a scale which is compatible with the visual appearance and features of its surroundings. In view of the above, it is considered that the proposal will have no adverse impact upon the amenity of neighbouring properties or to visitors. As such the proposal is considered to be compliant with Policy 30 of the LDP and can be supported.

Setting of the 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 proposal is appropriately sited, and of an acceptable scale, design and material 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 to national guidance in respect of its setting adjacent to a listed building and can be supported.

Conclusion

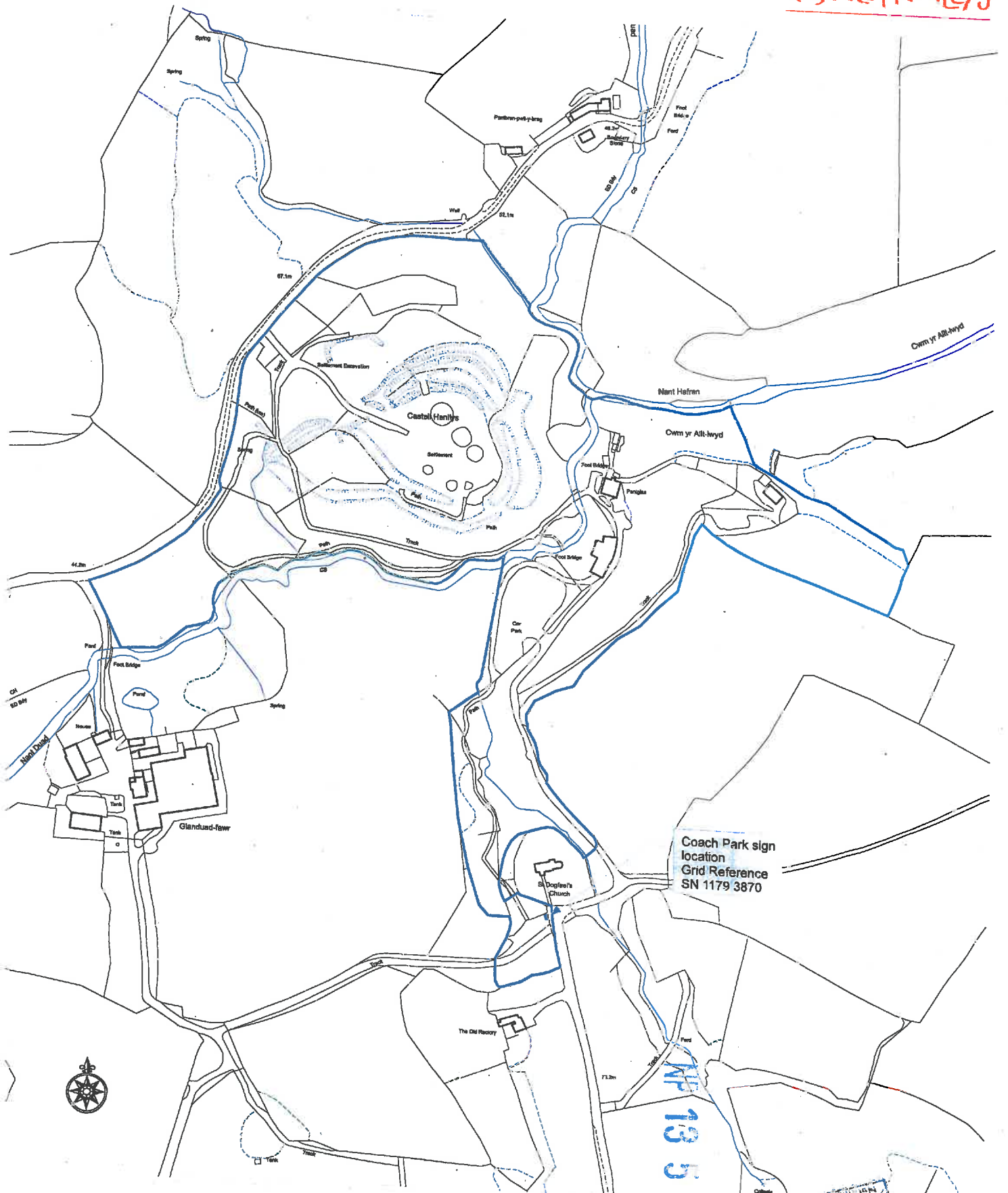
The proposed timber posts supporting a wattle panel to which a printed composite aluminium sign will be secured is considered to be appropriately sited and of an acceptable design and material which is compatible with the visual appearance and features of its setting and as such will not adversely affect the special qualities of the National Park or the amenity of the immediate neighbourhood. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be compliant with the primary purposes of the National Park and subsequent local and national policies.

Recommendation

Recommended for approval subject to the conditions relating to the standard time of 5 years, and that the development is to be undertaken strictly in accordance with the deposited plans.

Castell Henllys - Origins

Scale 1:2500



Coach Park sign
location
Grid Reference
SN 1179 3870

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