

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION POLICY OFFICER

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

1. This report invites Members to consider technical updates to the current National Park Management Plan (2009-13).

Background

2. Members will recall that at the NPA meeting of 23rd October 2013 it was agreed that Officers should undertake a technical update, consisting of basic factual changes, to the National Park Management Plan (2009-2013), in order to extend the Plan's life until the end of 2014, subject to Natural Resources Wales' advice.

3. Natural Resources Wales advises that it is not within its gift to pronounce on the sufficiency of the proposal with regard to the requirements of the Environment Act 1995; however it has no objection to the approach, as long as there are no changes to management policy.

Proposed updates

4. Proposed updates to the Management Plan are listed in Annex 1 to this report. No policy changes are intended.

Next steps

5. Subject to comment by Members, the list of proposed updates at Annex 1 will be circulated for comment to statutory consultees as set out in the Environment Act 1995. These are Pembrokeshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales, and the Secretary of State.

6. Officers will also invite comment from Welsh Government officials and Cadw, and will circulate the updates for information alongside publication of the Annual Monitoring Report of the Local Development Plan.

Risk considerations

7. As noted in the report to NPA 23rd October 2013, there are risks associated with not having a current adopted Management Plan; there are also risks in delaying a substantive review of the Management Plan, for example in terms of strategic 'drift' and a lack of public input and consultation to management policy. Hence this proposal seeks an extension of one year only for the current Plan subject to a limited technical update.

Compliance

8. The Environment Act 1995 Part III Section 66 (National Park Management Plans) applies (link below).

Human Rights/Equality issues

9. No issues are anticipated.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

10. No issues are anticipated.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members ENDORSE the Management Plan updates contained in Annex 1 to this report as the basis for consultation with the bodies identified above, subject to any comments they may wish to make on these updates.

Background Documents

- National Park Authority Report No. 56/13 National Park Management Plan
http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/Files/files/Committee/NPA/2013/23_10_13/56_13%20National%20Park%20Management%20Plan.pdf
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2009-13
<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/Files/files/Conservation/Conservation%20publications/National%20Park%20Management%20Plan%202009-2013-eng.pdf>
- Environment Act 1995 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>
- National Park Management Plan Guidance (English)
<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/files/files/Conservation/Conservation%20publications/National%20parks%20final%20English.PDF>

(For further information please contact Michel Regelous, Conservation Policy Officer)

Annex 1 – Proposed list of technical updates to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2009-13

Place in document	Update
Front cover	The Management Plan date should be amended to cover the period 2009-2014.
Front and back cover	The existing approval date should be supplemented with the date when the updates are approved by the National Park Authority.
Throughout	Welsh Assembly Government is now known as Welsh Government.
P2 and elsewhere as required	Amend references to the <i>Joint Unitary Development Plan</i> . A Local Development Plan for the non-National Park area of Pembrokeshire was adopted by Pembrokeshire County Council on the 28 th February 2013.
P3	West Wales Eco Centre (Eco Centre Wales) has wound down its operations and in 2013 merged with Tô Gwyrdd, a local charity concerned with sustainable housing.
Throughout	The former Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales were incorporated into Natural Resources Wales from April 2013. Where relevant, references to these bodies should now be taken as referring to Natural Resources Wales.
P18 Para 3.1, P19 Para 3.2	A draft policy statement on Wales' national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty was issued by Welsh Government in 2013.
P20, Para 3.3	References to the <i>Community Plan or Community Strategy for Pembrokeshire</i> , the <i>Children and Young People's Plan</i> , the <i>Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy</i> and the <i>Community Safety Strategy</i> should where relevant be replaced by a reference to the <i>Single Integrated Plan 2013-18</i> . The NPA's <i>Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</i> is also of relevance in this context.
P22	References to the <i>One Wales</i> agenda for government: Welsh Government goals are currently set out in the <i>Programme for Government</i> .
P24, Para 4.3.2 and elsewhere	The <i>Landscape Character Assessment</i> for the National Park was adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Pembrokeshire Coast <i>Local Development Plan (to 2021)</i> in June 2011.
Throughout	The Tir Gofal, Tir Cynnal, Tir Mynydd, Organic Farming Scheme/Organic Farming Conversion Scheme and Better Woodlands for Wales agri-environment schemes have been replaced by Glastir.
P39, Para 5.4.4.6, 5.4.5.3	Former Sea Fisheries Committee byelaws are now pieces of Welsh Government legislation.
P46, Para 6.4.1.3 and elsewhere	References to Heritage Protection Bill: Welsh Government's legislative programme includes a commitment to introduce a Heritage (Wales) Bill in 2014-

Place in document	Update
	15. A White Paper was produced in 2013.
P50, Para 7.3.1.2	The most recent Buildings At Risk survey was carried out in 2009.
P50, Para 7.3.1	Listed Building applications are made to the National Park Authority, which has delegated powers to process the majority of applications relating to Grade II Listed Buildings. The remainder, along with applications relating to Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings are processed via consultation with Cadw.
P58, Para 8.3.2	In 2009 Welsh Government commissioned a study to identify Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites. These are an advisory (i.e. non-statutory) designation intended to complement Geological Conservation Review sites. The study identified around 80 Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in Pembrokeshire, of which 65 lie in the National Park. The NPA adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance on Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in Pembrokeshire in October 2011.
P62, Chapter 9	Part 4 of the Climate Change Act 2008 provides Welsh Ministers with powers to identify “reporting authorities” and to direct these authorities to prepare climate change adaptation reports. Welsh Government has identified Wales’ National Park Authorities as reporting authorities and has provided guidance and other resources on the reporting process. The NPA has produced an adaptation report.
P69, Para 9.4.5	Flooding: relevant documents are the <i>Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan</i> , the <i>West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan</i> and the <i>South Wales Shoreline Management Plan</i> .
P70, Para 10.3.1	The National Park area is included within Pembrokeshire County Council’s <i>Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessments</i> .
P72, Para 11.2.1	Under the 1991 Water Industry Act, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water has to ensure that it is able to meet the reasonable needs of its customers now and into the future. Periodically it produces a <i>Water Resources Management Plan</i> which demonstrates how this will be achieved for the next 25 years. A plan was published for consultation in 2009; this was overtaken by the need to consider the impact of the EC Habitats Directive, and the initial draft has therefore been revised and updated.
P72, Para 11.2.3 and elsewhere	Water abstraction status and policy for local water resources is set out in the former Environment Agency Wales’ <i>Cleddau and Pembrokeshire Coast Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006</i> (updated 2009).
P74, Para 11.3.1	Natural Resources Wales prepares river basin management plans for Wales in order to deliver Water Framework Directive objectives. The National Park is

Place in document	Update
	included within the 2009 <i>Western Wales River Basin District Management Plan</i> .
P74, Para 11.3.3	Natural Resources Wales monitors 20 beaches in the National Park between May and September to assess whether they comply with the current standards of the Bathing Water Directive. Bathing water quality is measured by European Union mandatory (minimum) and guideline (higher) standards. Pembrokeshire County Council samples non-designated bathing beaches and recreational water to assess water quality and suitability for bathing. The <i>Pembrokeshire Bathing Water Strategy 2013-15</i> was published in 2013.
P78, Section 12.2	Recreation: the Management Plan sets out a context for access and recreation provision and management. <i>Enjoying the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park</i> was produced by the NPA and partners to help plan for sustainable recreation. Using Wales Activity Mapping data as evidence, the plan describes the distribution of recreational opportunities around the Pembrokeshire Coast, identifies issues (e.g. potential conflicts between recreation and conservation, or between recreational types), and sets out an approach to recreation management based on the nature of the landscape/seascape and environmental capacity. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Recreation and Leisure Activities was adopted by the NPA in December 2012.