

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK DIRECTION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 - 2024

Purpose of the report

1. The National Park Authority is required to prepare a five-yearly Management Plan for the National Park. The current National Park Management Plan covers the period 2015-2019.
2. Review of the Management Plan will include formal consultation on the key documents. However, this report is more concerned with proposals for informal engagement opportunities.

Background

3. The last full review of a Management Plan was undertaken for the Management Plan 2009-2013. The review was conducted in tandem with the Preferred Strategy for the first Local Development Plan. The Management Plan and the Preferred Strategy shared the same engagement mechanisms, including input from a Key Stakeholder Group, Community Panels and a grouping of Senior Management Team and Members, with informal engagement prior to formal consultation. A technical update of the Management Plan was undertaken for 2014.
4. With fundamental planning elements (e.g. vision, aims) in place, the Authority endorsed an iterative approach to preparation of the Management Plan 2015-2019. Review focussed on the review of policies and practical measures to achieve them. It included input from Senior Management Team, Leadership Team, Authority Members and external partners prior to formal public consultation.

Proposals for preparation of the Management Plan 2020-2024

5. The next review provides an opportunity to revisit the approach to preparation and implementation of the Management Plan, with a view to building new relationships, fostering commitment to National Park purposes and adding value in programme delivery through the Plan cycle.
6. For this Management Plan cycle (2020-2024) it is proposed to:
 - Seek perspectives from a more representative cross-section of people, working through existing partnerships and networks and tailoring approaches to suit stakeholders where possible. Annex 1 to this report lists the potential partners for additional informal engagement opportunities.

- Involve from an early stage a group of high-level representatives of relevant authorities indicated at section 62 of the Environment Act 1995¹.
- Identify local priorities, current impacts and new opportunities for action in a scene-setting evidence report.
- Prepare a Management Plan which is shorter than previous plans, more engaging and more focused on additional action. The Plan will locate action spatially where appropriate.
- Continue to develop engagement and delivery relationships during the Management Plan's implementation period.
- Take full advantage of geographical information systems and data integration technology to communicate and monitor Plan delivery and policy effectiveness.

7. An outline timetable for Management Plan preparation was approved in the Authority's Corporate and Resources Plan 2018/19 (page 33). A more detailed timetable is given below.

Milestone	By whom/when
Draft preparation timetable, and methods of engagement	Leadership Team, external bodies. May 2018
Approve timetable and engagement proposals	National Park Authority. June 2018
Engage with key stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate evidence (outcomes, issues, policy impact) • Draft / revise Plan and associated assessments (see "Requirements for impact assessments" below) • Prepare an action planning framework 	July to December 2018
Member Workshops to discuss draft reports and assessments	Spring 2019
Authority approval of consultation draft documents (Management Plan, Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment)	National Park Authority June 2019
Translation and formatting	June/July 2019
Public consultation (12 weeks)	Park Direction Team August 2019 - October 2019
Report of consultations to Authority. Authority approval of amended documents.	National Park Authority December 2019
Translation and formatting	Park Direction/Graphics Team December 2019/ January 2020
Feedback to consultees	December 2019
Publication of approved Management Plan and	January 2020

¹ "In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, any relevant authority shall have regard to the purposes [...] and, if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area comprised in the National Park." (Environment Act 1995, s.62)

Milestone	By whom/when
assessments; formal notification / adoption statements.	

Informal discussions with partner organisations

8. The timetable and Annex 1 to this report have benefited from input from a range of partner organisations and National Park Authority staff. The following partners were invited to comment: Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, PLANED, Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network, Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales, Visit Wales, Welsh Government.

Requirements for impact assessments

9. The Management Plan requires a number of impact assessments. These are:

(1) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

These assess the environmental, social and economic implications of the Plan's strategies and policies.

(2) Habitats Regulations Assessment

Required by any plan or programme likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area or Ramsar sites) which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation. The assessment should identify the likely effects on the Natura 2000 site, determine whether these effects are justifiable in a wider context, and identify any mitigation measures that must be taken.

(3) Equality Impact Assessment

The Management Plan will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment in line with the Equality Act 2010. The Public Equality Duty requires the Authority to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

This means that, in the formative stages of our policies, procedure, practice or guidelines, the Authority needs to take into account what impact its decisions will have on people who are protected under the Equality Act 2010 (people who share a protected characteristic of age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief).

10. The list of organisations at Annex 1 to this report includes a number of potential contacts who may wish to contribute from an early stage to these three assessments.

Guidance on Management Plans

11. Natural Resources Wales is in the early stages of reviewing the existing (2007) management plan guidance for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty². Officers are involved in this process. This will help to inform the guidance as it is developed and ensure that the Management Plan has good fit with the guidance when finalised.
12. An informal update note on the Preparatory Phase of management planning was provided by Natural Resources Wales in May 2018. The note indicates that protected landscape management plans are at the heart of nature-based and place-based solutions, with strong contributions to make to resilience and natural resource management objectives at wider scales.

Risk considerations

13. Each National Park Authority is required to prepare a five-yearly Management Plan "which formulates its policy for the management of the relevant Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park" (Environment Act 1995, section 66). The Environment Act 1995 gives relevant authorities a legal duty to have regard to Park purposes and to the Sandford Principle (see footnote 1 above).
14. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 add further statutory backing to National Park purposes and the need for participation and collaboration to achieve them.
15. Similarly, the Authority is required to collaborate with partners in the delivery of local well-being objectives and relevant Area Statements. In particular, the Management Plan will need to embed the five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, complement the priorities and integrated project themes set out in the in the Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire (May 2018) and align with relevant Area Statements.
16. Contact data acquisition and retention must take place in accord with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Financial considerations

17. Existing staff resources will be used. There is a budget of £5,000 for the preparation of the Plan (e.g. translation). Additional resources have been allocated to commission a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Welsh Language considerations

18. The review will be carried out in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards Regulations (No.1) 2015. The appraisal process will also consider impacts on the Welsh language.

² Natural Resources Wales commissioned advice on incorporating ecosystem conservation into protected landscape management. This was issued in 2014.

Human Rights considerations

19. The Plan will ensure compatibility with the Human Rights Act 1998 where there is a need to reconcile differing demands. The proposed process for Management Plan preparation and assessment procedures will support this requirement.

Recommendation

That the proposed approach to preparation of the National Park Management Plan 2020–2024 is endorsed.

Background documents

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority [Corporate and Resources Plan 2018/19](#), approved 28th March 2018.

[Wellbeing Plan for Pembrokeshire](#), May 2018

Welsh Assembly Government / Countryside Council for Wales 2007 [Guidance on preparing Management Plans](#)

(For further information please contact Martina Dunne, Head of Park Direction, extension 4820.)

Consultees: Leadership Team; Hannah Buck; Richard Griffiths; Geraint Jones; Sarah Mellor; Tom Moses; Graham Peake; Michel Regelous; Anthony Richards; Libby Taylor; Mair Thomas.

Please see also the list of external consultees at paragraph 8 of this report.

Annex 1

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2020-2024 Indicative list of stakeholders / partners

People – National Park Authority	Comments
Members of the Authority	Workshops and Authority meetings. Formal approval at key stages.
National Park Authority staff	Email. Meetings. Drafting input / collaboration. Leadership Team approvals of key documents. Inform: Staff Meeting/Team Leaders meeting updates.
Volunteers	Separate meetings tend to be required for consultation sessions, but could be embedded in regular sessions with some notice. Group session may require facilitation. Some may prefer questionnaires. Includes Youth Rangers. Potential for a National Park Authority Volunteer Forum.

People - Service users	Comments
Access and Recreation	See Local Access Forum below. Also informal liaison mechanisms with recreational users (e.g. through Rangers).
Coast to Coast	Opportunity to inform and to invite people onto to mailing list.
NPA website	Opportunity to inform and to invite people onto to mailing list.
Planning	Issues arising from Local Development Plan preparation (National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council) can be dovetailed with Management Plan preparation.
Social inclusion / well-being / interpretation / social action and community projects	<p>Opportunities where the National Park Authority hosts or attends events e.g. Family John Muir Award participants, Walkability.</p> <p>Existing structures of participation include School Governing Bodies, School Councils, Youth Assembly, 50+ Forum, Carers' Forum, Pembrokeshire Access Group, networks and forums facilitated by the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services and PLANED.</p> <p>Different approaches needed for different audiences but potential to combine groups / events. E.g. a 6th Form event could be combined with other young people as a special event.</p> <p>Potential to partner with Youth Service at e.g. skate parks.</p> <p>Feedback from above can feed into the Equality Impact Assessment of the Plan. Direct contact can be made with organisations working with people with protected characteristics (for example Pembrokeshire</p>

	People First, FRAME, Clynfyw, Value Independence, Hafal Crossroads, Mencap, VC Gallery, Croeso groups, Disability Sports Wales, Welsh Women's Aid, Hafan Cymru) and those facing barriers to accessing the National Park as part of equality impact assessment. Potential to arrange workshop for these organisations as part of this process looking at focused areas.
Visitors to NPA sites and centres	Opportunity to inform and invite onto to mailing list. Themes from TripAdvisor comments.

Relevant authorities	Comments
Relevant authorities indicated at section 62 of the Environment Act 1995	A partnership group involving high-level representatives of the National Park Authority and relevant authorities.

The following table lists potential informal engagement opportunities. All organisations listed will also be formally consulted, if they wish.

People - networks and partners	Comments
Age Cymru	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Bluestone Foundation	
Cadw	Also a statutory consultee.
Arwain Sir Benfro	Pembrokeshire LEADER Local Action Group, facilitated by PLANED.
Town Teams for main towns	E.g. Tenby, Haverfordwest, Fishguard, Pembroke, Pembroke Dock and Milford
Conservation charities	E.g. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, British Trust for Ornithology, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Plantlife, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Trust South and West Wales. Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal.
Country Land and Business Association	
Creating an Active Wales Network	
Clynfyw Care Farm	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Darwin Centre for Biology and Medicine	
Destination Pembrokeshire Partnership	Pembrokeshire Tourism, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, PLANED and Pembrokeshire County Council.
Disability Wales	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water	
Dyfed Archaeological Trust	

People - networks and partners	Comments
Equality and Human Rights Commission	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Farmers' Union of Wales	See also Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment (see also Young Farmers).
Family Holiday Association	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Federation of Small Businesses	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	
Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Pembrokeshire	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment. Potential for heritage-based engagement e.g. looking at Pembrokeshire Gypsy and Traveller Heritage and the National Park/ views on landscape.
Harbours	
Housing associations	Drafting stage - attending Ateb's Big Day out to gather views of tenants/service users. Pembrokeshire County Council Housing department. In terms of engaging with tenants and service users most will have tenant participation or community development teams. They are also likely to be working on health and wellbeing projects.
Keep Wales Tidy	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal.
Health Advocates Network	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Local Access Forum	Themes also emerging from Country Paths survey, path counter figures and feedback from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation (May 10 th – 3rd August). Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Menter Iaith Sir Benfro	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Ministry of Defence	Potential opportunity to present at meetings of the MoD access and recreation and nature conservation groups.
National Farmers' Union of England and Wales	See also Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment (see also Young Farmers).
National networks and associations	With a view to identifying barriers, e.g. reasons for not visiting / accessing the National Park. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
National Trust	
Natural Resources Wales	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal. Also a statutory consultee.

People - networks and partners	Comments
Outdoor Charter Group	
Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations	
Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services	See also Third sector organisations
Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum	
Pembrokeshire College	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Pembrokeshire Co-production Network	
Pembrokeshire County Council	Direct links to Wellbeing Plan, Conservation, Public Transport, Social Care, Education, Children's Services, Youth Service. Also a statutory consultee.
Pembrokeshire Mind	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership	Potential for briefing/s with subsequent issues discussion.
Pembrokeshire People First	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Pembrokeshire Preventions Programme Board	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment. Particular links to Social / Green Prescribing.
Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agricultural Network	Briefing/s with subsequent issues discussion may be most effective. Pick up other specific land management interests through the network. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment (see also Young Farmers)
Pembrokeshire Tourism	
Pembrokeshire U3A	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Pembrokeshire Voices for Equality	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group	Potential for briefing/s with subsequent issues discussion may be most effective. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
PLANED	See also Third sector organisations and Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network.
Port of Milford Haven	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal.
Public Services Board	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal. Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Recreation Action Plan Group	
Religious groups	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Relevant Authorities Groups: Pembrokeshire Marine	

People - networks and partners	Comments
Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Cardigan Bay SAC; Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites	
The Environmental Network Pembrokeshire	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal.
Town / City / Community Councils	Can include all Pembrokeshire Town and Community Councils. Potential for a focused consultation / questionnaire as part of Plan preparation on identified issues. See also One Voice Wales.
Third sector organisations that work with people who may already access the National Park, or could potentially benefit from greater access to the Park	<p>E.g. Pembrokeshire People First, FRAME, Clynyfw, Value Independence, Hafal Crossroads, Mencap, VC Gallery, Croeso groups, Disability Sports Wales, Welsh Women's Aid, Hafan Cymru.</p> <p>Potential to work through Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services and PLANED networks.</p> <p>Direct contact can be made with organisations as part of Equality Impact Assessment, potential to arrange workshop for these organisations as part of this process.</p>
Transition Bro Gwaun	Potential for collaboration on Sustainability Appraisal.
Maintained schools within Pembrokeshire	One of the Public Service Board project themes is Celebrating the Great Outdoors. Potential to use the co-ordinating body for this project to engage with schools; potential to contact governing bodies direct for better spatial targeting.
One Voice Wales	
Visit Wales	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	
Welsh Government	Various departments (wellbeing, renewables etc). See also Visit Wales Also a statutory consultee.
Welsh Language Commissioner	
West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre	Potential to involve County recorders via the Centre.
Women's Institute - Pembrokeshire Federation	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.
Young Farmers Pembrokeshire	Potential for collaboration on Equality Impact Assessment.