

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

A Partnership Plan for the National Park 2025-2029

Draft for public consultation

Approved for consultation by the Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority, 19th June 2024



Parc Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park



Foreword

*“Look closely at the present you are constructing:
it should look like the future you are dreaming.”*

– Alice Walker

National Parks are some of our most special places, designated for their outstanding landscapes. They are also places where people live, work and visit and therefore play a critical economic role as well as being spaces with huge cultural and social value.

We know that as a society we are facing unprecedented challenges - with both climate and nature emergencies that must be responded to. We also face what may be termed a health emergency - in a post pandemic world we have seen significant increases in the number of people experiencing anxiety or other mental health challenges, and where our lifestyles and wider determinants of health (such as income and housing) are increasingly resulting in poor health outcomes.

We also face considerable challenges regarding the provision of jobs and housing, in particular for young people. House prices and rents in the National Park are significantly higher than the rest of Pembrokeshire; the median sale price for houses in the National Park in 2023 was almost ten times the median wage. At the 2011 Census the National Park had one of the highest rates of second / holiday home use of its general housing stock in England



and Wales, at 26.7%. This impacts negatively on housing affordability and support for local facilities. As at March 2024, there were more than 5,000 households on the Pembrokeshire Housing Waiting List - excluding transfers.

While there appears to be no shortage of employment opportunities in Pembrokeshire, the jobs available are often low paid (over 25% of full-time workers earned less than £18,000 per year in 2017) and seasonal (winter benefit claimant rates are almost double those for summer). In alignment with the Just Transition framework, partners can support job opportunities linked to the green recovery, bringing new opportunities for skills and jobs creation.

There are many key ways in which the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park as a place can help respond to these challenges, playing a key role for local communities but also improving outcomes in a way that supports a national response. This might be responding to coastal erosion and adapting the line of the world-famous Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail; it can also be by strengthening habitat connectivity to allow movement of species.

As human beings we have always adapted successfully and we can do so now – we can also help ourselves as we help the environment around us, as examples such as the award-winning Roots to Recovery project showcase – people working to support changes to places and receiving health benefits at the same time.

Responding to these challenges is not something that the National Park Authority can do alone – the challenges are too great and require collaborative action. While this



document is in legal terms the National Park Management Plan, we use the term Partnership Plan because of our need to work together to build the future that the Pembrokeshire Coast deserves – a future that not only protects the things that make the National Park special at the moment, but which ensures they remain so and even improve in quality in the future.

This Partnership Plan for the next five years sets out how all of those involved in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park can work together to deliver the best outcomes for the place and its people. I have been fascinated to read some of the public feedback around what makes the National Park special and I hope you will enjoy reading some of the quotes within this Plan. These views have fed directly into the policies and actions in this Partnership Plan as we consider how we use the next few years as a ‘stitch in time’ to work towards a brighter future.

I hope you will work with us in this aim and look forward to receiving constructive feedback on this Plan through the consultation process this summer.

Tegryn Jones
Chief Executive
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
May 2024



An introduction from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Next Generation

We founded the National Park Youth Committee - now known as Next Generation - in 2020, with the aim of making positive changes by working together for the future.

We recognise that in order to deliver real lasting change we have to work in partnership. We have been excited to input into the development of this Partnership Plan for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park for the next 5 years. The Pembrokeshire Coast is our home but we know that other people also love to visit this special place. We want to be able to continue to live here in the future and so how this Plan supports its local communities is a critical issue for us. Our Youth Manifesto and priorities for action on youth, empowerment, living, learning and working have fed into this Plan and we are pleased to see the importance of young people accessing nature recognised.

We feel that young people have a key role to play in addressing nature recovery and adapting to climate change. We also know that getting out into nature can bring huge well-being benefits. We hope that you will look at the example actions set out in the Plan and commit to working for the Pembrokeshire Coast's future alongside us.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Next Generation
May 2024



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Partners who can support Plan delivery

Agents
 Anglers
 Amgueddfa Cymru
 Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
 Beach Wheelchair Scheme hosts
 Boatowners
 Buglife
 Building owners
 Bumblebee Conservation Trust
 Businesses
 Cadw (the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service)
 Children under 6
 Commons graziers
 Commons Resilience partners
 Communities
 Community, Town and City Councils
 Community and support groups (e.g. MIND, St David's Care in the Community, Point Youth Centre)
 Community groups
 Community Land Trusts
 Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales
 Cultural venues
 Cwm Arian Renewable Energy
 Destination Pembrokeshire Partnership
 Developers
 Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
 Dyfed-Powys Police
 Experiences for All partners
 Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales
 Faith Groups
 Farmers' Union of Wales
 Farming Connect
 First 1000 days project partners
 Fishers
 Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
 Future Works
 Get Outdoors
 Gyda'n Gilydd dros Newydd / Together for Change
 Harbour authorities













Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology
 Heritage Guardians
 Heritage Watch partners
 Historic asset owners / managers
 Historic Environment Working Groups (Welsh Government)
 Hospitality businesses
 Householders
 Households living in poverty
 Housing Authorities
 Industry
 John Muir Award participants
 Keep Wales Tidy
 Landowners / managers
 Learn Welsh Pembrokeshire - Dysgu
 Cymraeg Sir Benfro Let's Walk
 Pembrokeshire Partnership
 Local Access Forum
 Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group
 Menter Iaith Sir Benfro
 Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group
 Ministry of Defence
 Mudiad Meithrin
 National Farmers' Union of England and Wales
 National Library of Wales
 National Parks UK
 National Trust
 Natur am Byth! Project partners
 Natural Resources Wales
 Nutrient Management Board
 Nyfer am Byth
 Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner
 Open to All project partners
 Outdoor Schools
 Pathways Project
 Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations
 Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group
 Pembrokeshire College
 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust
 Pembrokeshire County Council
 Pembrokeshire Grazing Network
 Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership

Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authority Group
 Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
 Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership
 Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group
 Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network
 Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum
 Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group
 Pembrokeshire Pride
 Pembrokeshire Young Farmers Club
 People aged 16-24
 People aged 65+
 People experiencing poor health and wellbeing
 People from the global majority
 People with a disability
 PLANED
 Plantlife
 Port of Milford Haven
 Property owners
 Prosiect Nos partners
 Public Health Wales
 Public Services Board ¹
 Race to Zero partners
 Registered Social Landlords
 Relevant Authority Groups
 Roots to Recovery partners
 Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales
 Royal National Lifeboat Institution
 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 Schools
 Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group
 Sky Ocean Rescue partners
 South Hook LNG Terminal Co Ltd
 South Wales Industrial Cluster
 Span Arts
 Swansea University
 Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
 The Cleddau Project
 The Crown Estate
 The National Trust
 Tirweddau Cymru / Landscapes Wales
 Transport for Wales
 UK National Parks Climate and Energy Group

UK National Parks Partnership
 Universities
 University of Wales
 Urdd Gobaith Cymru
 User groups
 Visit Pembrokeshire
 Visit Wales
 Visitors
 Volunteers
 Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership
 Wales Wildfire Charter
 Welsh Government
 Welsh Place-Name Society
 West Wales Standing Environment Group
 Western Power Distribution / National Grid
 Wildlife Trust South and West Wales
 Woodland Trust
 World Wide Fund for Nature
 Youth Committee
 Youth Rangers

Note - the list is not exhaustive and more partners are likely to be added.

¹ Public Services Board statutory members: Pembrokeshire County Council, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Natural Resources Wales). Statutory invitees: the Welsh Ministers, the Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police, the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, National Probation Service.

-  Parc Cenedlaethol / National Park
-  Llwybr yr Arfordir / Coast Path
-  Canolfan Wybodaeth / Information Centre
-  Safle Picnic / Picnic Site
-  Gorsaf Reilffordd / Railway Station
-  Harbwr / Harbour
-  Cofeb Hanesyddol / Historic Monument
-  Castell Cerrig / Stone Castle
-  Man gwyllo / Viewpoint
-  Cromlech / Cromlech
-  Hostel Ieuenctid / Youth Hostel
-  Maes parcio'r Parc Cenedlaethol lle codir ffi / National Park fee-paying car park



1 A living, working landscape

UK national parks

The UK's national parks are exceptional landscapes. The statutory purposes of national parks are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.²

If there is a conflict between the purposes that cannot be resolved, the first purpose has greater weight (this is known as the 'Sandford principle').

With an area of 629 km², Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is one of the more densely-populated of the UK's national parks, with almost 21,000 people living in 49 community, town and city council areas in 2021. Pembrokeshire Coast is the only primarily coastal national park in the UK and was formally designated in 1952. The shape and size of the National Park makes partnership working and working across boundaries essential to achieving National Park purposes.

Natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage underpin people's health and wellbeing, prosperity and culture. Landscapes, rivers and coastal waters support the processes that help produce food, regulate climate, reduce flooding and store carbon.

² The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 provided the framework for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park was designated in 1952.



The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is home for 21,000 people, a dazzling range of wildlife, and is at the heart of Pembrokeshire’s visitor offer.

The National Park Authority

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (“the National Park Authority”) is charged with delivering national park purposes in this National Park. The National Park Authority has a duty to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of National Park communities in its pursuit of the purposes.

Many other organisations also have a legal duty to have regard to National Park purposes, and to the Sandford Principle³. In practice the National Park Authority and its partners - organisations, landowners, businesses and individuals - work together to achieve shared and complementary goals. This Partnership Plan sets out the ways in which partners collectively help achieve National Park purposes.

Welsh Government has outlined its priorities for national parks and national landscapes (as some areas of outstanding natural beauty are now known) in Wales. These protected landscapes are places of high natural and cultural value. They are for everyone in Wales. And they are essential to delivering national and local environmental, social and sustainable economic development ambitions⁴.

The priorities of a term of Government remit letter to the National Park Authority is reflected in this Partnership Plan.

³ This duty is set out in section 62 of the Environment Act 1995.

⁴ Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s Priorities for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018)



People and place

Although parts of some UK national parks are wild and remote, they have long histories of human occupation. The special qualities of the landscape which we enjoy today have been shaped by previous generations – people making practical decisions, using the tools and technology available to them, and within the context of their culture and values.

The National Park Authority has a duty to support the social and economic wellbeing of Park communities in its pursuit of National Park purposes. Natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and people's enjoyment of them, provide a wide range of social and economic benefits in their own right. On a practical level, healthy, functioning landscapes enable society to grow food (about 60% of the National Park land area is managed for production of food or forage⁵) and, taking landscape and wildlife sensitivities into account, the landscape can contribute to renewable electricity and heat production.

Landscape and wildlife also underwrite key natural processes such as climate and weather regulation, soil formation, carbon storage, pollination, natural flood protection, and water and nutrient cycling. Diverse, healthy ecosystems provide a buffer against environmental change.

These ecosystem services are the basis of people's wellbeing and prosperity, and underpin many other aspects of our quality of life, including culture and spirituality.

National Park purposes, and the National Park Authority's duty to foster socio-economic wellbeing in the pursuit of them, cannot be separated.

⁵ Based on 2015 Phase 1 habitat data (grassland and arable classes).



Together, the purposes and duty form a sound economic strategy – protection and growth of natural, cultural and social capital, with an income that is sustainable and equitable.

Most of the National Park is privately owned, with about a quarter lying in the public realm or in charitable ownership. The National Park Authority leases or owns about 1% of the land area of the National Park, including flagship sites such as Carew Castle and Tidal Mill, Castell Henllys Iron Age Hillfort and Oriel y Parc. In addition, the NPA leases large sections of the foreshore west and north of Giltar Point from The Crown Estate.

Around 7% of the National Park is Common Land, while the National Trust's holdings account for over 6%. The Ministry of Defence owns around 4%; the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales owns or leases approximately 1% and Natural Resources Wales around 0.6%.



About this plan

The Environment Act 1995 requires the National Park Authority to prepare a Management Plan for the National Park⁶. The current Management Plan is for 2020-2024. This draft replacement plan, which will be called a Partnership Plan, is for 2025-2029.

The Partnership Plan builds on previous plans, takes account of changes in legislation and policy, and incorporates learning from ongoing conversations with partner organisations and stakeholders. The Plan takes an iterative approach to planning, where the outputs and learning from one plan cycle inform the next.

As part of the process, the National Park Authority has reviewed evidence and stakeholder input to identify the key issues that the Partnership Plan needs to address. These are described in section 3 of this Plan, 'the State of the Park', and include:

- Promoting ecosystem recovery at scale and improving the state of wildlife on land and in the marine environment (as a milestone to clear recovery by 2050)
- Achieving favourable conservation status on high nature value sites
- maintaining and enhancing species for which Pembrokeshire is uniquely important
- Increasing the connectivity of the landscape for wildlife
- Supporting use of the Welsh language, Welsh Pembrokeshire dialect and South Pembrokeshire (English) dialect

⁶ Each National Park Authority must 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" (Section 66 of the Environment Act, 1995).



- Providing outdoor learning opportunities, in particular for children
- Providing sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities for a full cross-section of society, and increasing the frequency of people's participation
- Managing potential / actual recreational pressures such as those arising from unauthorised camping and congestion
- Reducing the significant waiting list for affordable housing in Pembrokeshire (over 5,000 in 2024)
- Addressing the issue of high numbers of poorly paid seasonal jobs and limited employment opportunities
- Supporting the recovery of the increasing number of people experiencing poor mental health post-Covid 19
- Adapting to the changing physical and well-being needs of residents and visitors
- Maintaining and extending sustainable transport and active travel options
- Halving carbon emissions within the National Park area in the lifetime of this Plan (a milestone in achieving carbon-neutrality in the National Park area by 2050)
- Proactively addressing the impacts of climate change on coastal communities and infrastructure
- Reducing pollution from phosphates, nitrates and ammonia, and eliminating environmental harm from storm overflow sewage discharges.

This draft Partnership Plan sets out the purposes of the National Park, the action to be taken over the next five years, the partners involved and the measures of success.



This draft is your opportunity to help shape the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Partnership Plan 2025-2029.

Please let us know what you think by completing the online questionnaire linked on the National Park Authority's website.

In preparing this Partnership Plan, the National Park Authority has collaborated with Natural Resources Wales as new guidance on management planning for protected landscapes in Wales has been prepared. A working version of the guidance has informed preparation of this Plan.

Impact assessments for consultation, available on the National Park Authority's website, accompany this draft Plan. The purpose of the impact assessments is to ensure that policy proposals do not have negative impacts, and that where possible policies deliver additional value in terms of, for example, communities, people sharing protected characteristics, health, and internationally important wildlife sites.

Relevant public bodies, including the National Park Authority, are required to promote the Welsh language and its use and to mitigate potential negative impacts. Welsh Government's *Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language* provides statutory guidance and a requirement to identify Welsh linguistic sensitive areas. A Welsh language impact assessment for the draft Plan is published for consultation on the National Park Authority's website.



Four themes for partnership action

Protected landscapes are a national asset and are a key mechanism for delivering Welsh Government's, UK and international environmental, social and economic ambitions. This is therefore a plan for the National Park area, not just for the National Park Authority. A list of partners is included earlier in this draft.

The Partnership Plan is based on action across four complementary themes. The themes relate directly to National Park purposes and the special qualities, and align with Welsh Government's well-being, climate, natural resource and ecosystem resilience goals. (The four themes also align with the format of the National Park Authority's own corporate plan.)

This Partnership Plan is based on four themes:

- Conservation - of landscape and wildlife
- Connection - of people with nature and heritage
- Climate and natural resources
- Communities

The themes also align with the principles of sustainable management of natural resources⁷, with the priorities identified in the South West Area Statement and the Marine Area Statement prepared by Natural Resources Wales, and with key legislation, policy and guidance including:

Links from the themes to Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals		
Theme	Description	Well-being goal
Conservation	Conserving and enhancing natural beauty and wildlife.	A prosperous Wales A Wales of more cohesive communities A more equal Wales A globally responsible Wales
Connection	Conserving and enhancing cultural heritage and Welsh language. Promoting enjoyment and understanding of the National Park.	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A more equal Wales A healthier Wales
Climate and natural resources	Managing natural resources sustainably.	A globally responsible Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A prosperous Wales A more equal Wales
Communities	Landscapes for lives and livelihoods.	A Wales of more cohesive communities A prosperous Wales A healthier Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A more equal Wales

⁷Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks was issued by Welsh Government in July 2018. It includes a proposal for a legal requirement on national park authorities to pursue sustainable management of natural resources in the exercise of their functions.

Legislation

- Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Environment Act 1995
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016⁵ including the principles of sustainable management of natural resources⁸
- Equality Act 2010
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Policy and proposals

- Biodiversity Deep Dive 2022 (including the 30x30 target)
- Cymraeg 2050
- Environmental principles, governance and biodiversity targets: White Paper 2024, which includes proposals for a statutory target framework for biodiversity in Wales, delivered locally through the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan, geared to improvement in the status of species and ecosystems by 2030 and their clear recovery by 2050
- European Landscape Convention
- Future Wales National Plan 2040
- Just Transition Framework for net zero
- Marine Area Statement
- National Parks UK Climate Emergency Response Statement

- Natural Resources Policy 2017⁹
- Net Zero Strategic Plan 2022
- Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales 2023-2028
- Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024
- South-West Area Statement
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (including the five ways of working principles¹⁰)
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire 2023-2028
- Welsh Government's 2018 policy statement Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks
- Welsh National Marine Plan 2019

Guidance and resources

- Future Trends Report (2021)
- LANDMAP – the Welsh landscape baseline
- the Nature and Us / Natur a Ni vision (2023) for a 2050 where society and nature thrive together, and where people are more involved in decisions that impact on nature.
- State of Natural Resources Report for Wales 2020 / Bridges to the Future
- The State of Nature 2023
- Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment: Summary for Wales

In future, the Partnership Plan must also have regard to the sustainable land management report published under section 6 of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023. The first of these is due in December 2026, so will fall within the lifetime of this Plan.

⁸Principles for the sustainable management of natural resources are set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and are: manage adaptively; consider the appropriate spatial scale for action; promote and engage in collaboration and co-operation; arrange for public participation in decision-making; take account of relevant evidence and gather evidence in respect of uncertainties; recognise the benefits and intrinsic value of natural resources and ecosystems; take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions; prevent significant damage to ecosystems; take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the diversity, connectivity, scale, condition (including structure and functioning) and adaptability of ecosystems.

⁹This identifies three national priorities: delivering nature-based solutions; increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency, and taking a place-based approach.

¹⁰Five ways of working are set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The intention is that the Partnership Plan (a plan which gives rise to projects) will fulfil (and continuously improve on) the five ways of working as follows. Long term: The Plan adopts the principles of sustainable natural resource management. Prevention: The Plan proposes ways to avoid and design out issues as well as ways of addressing them. Integration: The Plan aligns with local and national well-being objectives and goals, with Natural Resources Policy priorities and with relevant Area Statements. Collaboration and Involvement: If the Partnership Plan process is to add value it should help collaboration between partners and involve a representative cross-section of society. Plan review and implementation provides a continuous opportunity to start new conversations and forge and maintain new relationships. The Equality Impact Assessment of the Partnership Plan has identified further potential for collaboration.



Local Development Plan 2 (to 2031)

Policy proposed in this Partnership Plan provides a context for planning and managing the built environment.

Development planning policies are set out in the *Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan 2 (to 2031)* for the National Park, prepared by the National Park Authority.

Local Development Plan 2 is supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance notes on a range of topics, many of which are also of direct relevance to this Partnership Plan. Local Development Plan 2 policy implementation is monitored via an Annual Monitoring Report produced by the National Park Authority. Some of the key trends identified by the Annual Monitoring Report are highlighted in the Partnership Plan.

Review of the adopted Local Development Plan 2 will start in September 2024. This Partnership Plan together with monitoring and review of the existing plan and evidence base will inform that review.





2 Special qualities of the National Park

The second purpose of the National Park is *to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.*

In 2024, the National Park Authority asked people what they consider to be the special qualities of the National Park, what the risks are to those qualities, and what extra action is needed to protect them.

In the statements of significance below we have tried to capture the essence of people's experiences of the National Park, and the nature of the special qualities that underpin them. This section builds on previous public surveys on the special qualities, and on landscape assessment.

The special qualities of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park are:

- Landscapes and seascapes
- Coastal scenery
- Distant, uninterrupted views and open horizons
- Wildlife
- Rights of Way
- Tranquillity
- Dark skies
- Heritage and culture
- Welsh language



- Patterns of use
- Earth heritage
- Recreational opportunity
- Community and stewardship

Additions / changes to the special qualities include a greater emphasis on Welsh language and dialects and on the sensory environment of the National Park – for example big seascapes, the sensitivity of the sea horizon to development, characteristic soundscapes and dark skies.

The National Park Authority is grateful for all the survey responses received.

Only a very small selection of quotes (in speechmarks) is included in this draft. The quotes give an idea of people's favourite places, the qualities which make these places special, the challenges and some possible solutions.



What's so special about the National Park?

Landscapes and seascapes

“Pristine, beautiful landscape. World class in every way.”

“Fabulous landscapes, hospitable people, uncrowded, relatively unspoiled, rich history, feeling of connection.”

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is a living, working landscape of outstanding natural beauty and cultural heritage. This distinctive part of Wales enables people to enjoy and explore many different coastal and inland landscapes, within the relatively small area of 629 km².

This is one of the more densely-populated of the UK's national parks, with almost 21,000 people living in 49 community, town and city council areas (2021 census figures). Pembrokeshire Coast was formally designated a National Park in 1952.

“The stunning coastline and beautiful Preselis: being a restorative haven preserving access to nature and wilderness in difficult times. A massive and priceless resource for people's mental and physical health.”

Coastal scenery

“Treginnis headland - tide race through Ramsey Sound and expansive views over St Brides Bay.”



“Freshwater West is wild especially in stormy weather and often blows the cobwebs away!”

The National Park boundary extends to mean low water, but Pembrokeshire is a maritime county and the sea, waterway and rivers are integral to people’s experience of the Park.

Renowned for its spectacular coastline and big seascapes, the National Park features sandy beaches, dramatic cliffs, rugged headlands and includes the islands, the main islands being Caldey, Ramsey, Skokholm and Skomer. These are the names given by the Vikings who sailed the coast in the 8th to 10th centuries, but Caldey and Ramsey are known to have had older Welsh names reflecting early Christian tradition. These are, respectively, Ynys Bŷr and Ynys Dewi - named for Saint Pyr, a 6th century saint, and Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. The Smalls reef - which features Wales’ tallest lighthouse - is 20 miles offshore.

“The beaches in Pembrokeshire are better than any abroad.”

Distant, uninterrupted views and open horizons

“The Preseli hills. They are on the horizon over most of Pembrokeshire. Spectacular geography, incredible history and heritage and the largest “wild” area in SW Wales. From the tops of the hills to the bogs and rivers, they are the closest thing to a wilderness that we have in this area.”



The Preseli Hills are a dramatic ancient landscape of rolling heath and moorland with scattered rocky outcrops. The hills, and headlands such as St Davids Head and St Govans Head, offer panoramic views and breathtaking vistas of the county and beyond, to the north Wales, Irish and English coastlines, including Lundy Island.

Wildlife

“Cwm-yr-Eglwys in Dinas is sheltered and perfect for swimming. In the autumn it’s a great place to see bioluminescent plankton and sea gooseberries.”

The coast, inshore waters and islands are home to an impressive array of wildlife, including internationally-important seabird colonies, and rare and endangered species.

There are 13 Special Areas of Conservation and 5 Special Protection Areas, 60 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 7 National Nature Reserves, one Local Nature Reserve and one Marine Conservation Zone (around Skomer and the Marloes peninsula) within or partly within the National Park.

“Brynberian Moor, Carningli, the moor near Mynachlogddu. Special because they are relatively unspoilt, relatively peaceful, wild(ish) places where it’s still possible to roam freely without encountering fences, barbed wire (or not much!), where you can get away from the constant hubbub



of 'modern' life, look at and smell rare plants, watch birds, dragonflies and other insects. They just make me feel better, less anxious, more whole."

Rights of way

"We need spaces like this where we can recharge our physical and psychological batteries."

Walking is by far the most significant recreational activity in the National Park. Running the entire length of the coast is the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail - 299km of pure delight and a national treasure. Inland are secret valleys, ancient woodlands and tranquil rivers to explore and absorb, accessible thanks to an additional 1,000+ km of inland rights of way, a network which meets different needs, for example the requirements of people with disabilities.

These routes, coupled with about 6,600 hectares of access land, enable people to make circular walks and provide links between communities inside and outside the National Park. The rights of way network also enables people to access the beaches, woods and hills and to find health, happiness, solace and solitude in the fresh, wide-open spaces, the inshore waters and characteristic soundscapes of the National Park.

"Marloes, St. Brides and the whole coastal path all special because of space to walk, enjoy the views, places to think in peace and beauty."



Tranquillity

“The peace and quiet - being able to escape.”

Between the western and southern areas of the National Park lies the Milford Haven Waterway, where the serene and wooded reaches of the Cleddau, Carew and Cresswell Rivers feed into one of the finest natural deep-water harbours in the world. The National Park offers a year-round feast of sensory restoratives - like birdsong, and the tang of salt air.

“Preseli tops...Especially with the “steam train” clouds puffing their way towards Crymych.”

Dark skies

Darkness reveals the humbling grandeur of the night sky, looking in many respects as it did to those who came before us.

Large areas of the National Park are relatively free of light pollution, and there are eight Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the National Park. These are accessible sites, with associated parking, which afford good views of the night sky on cloudless, moonless nights.

Heritage and culture

“Pentre Ifan Cromlech - history in a simple configuration amidst the Preselis.”



The National Park showcases evidence of human activity over thousands of years. The list includes 285 Scheduled Monuments, and about 10,000 sites in the Historic Environment Record.

There are over 1,200 listed buildings and 13 designated Conservation Areas. Nine Historic Landscape areas lie wholly or partly within the National Park, and there are 14 Historic Parks and Gardens.

The National Park serves as a backdrop for countless tales, legends, and folklore, reflecting a unique Welsh heritage. Standing stones, burial chambers, including the iconic Pentre Ifan Neolithic cromlech or dolmen, and Iron Age hillforts provide evidence of early human settlement. The bluestones at Stonehenge are considered to originate from the Preseli Hills, having potentially been quarried at sites such as Craig Rhos-y-felin.

The historic buildings and built environments - including castles, churches, towns and villages - are evidence of the region's rich and ever-changing historical heritage and culture. Historic placenames hint at knowledge of natural features or cultural significance.

By population, St Davids is the UK's smallest city and remains a place of pilgrimage. In medieval times, pilgrimage to St Davids was decreed to be on a par with a journey to Rome or Jerusalem.

“Nevern Castle, with its links to the Lord Rhys, a genuine hidden gem. Pencaer, for the coast, prehistoric archaeology and links to the Last Invasion.”



Welsh language and dialects

“Pentre Ifan, Carni Ingli and Cwm Gwaun. These places have deep cultural significance to Cymru. They still retain the Welsh language and culture... we can still connect with our deep past by being mindful in these beautiful places.”

The National Park is a melting-pot of language, dialects (Welsh and English), and slang. The language bears testament to the various collisions of people with place, inspiring literature, poetry, music, art across the generations. A higher percentage of people in community council areas in the north of the National Park are able to speak Welsh, however the Welsh language is enjoying a resurgence in the south of the National Park, supported by Welsh language education opportunities county-wide.

“The Welsh poetry that has described the natural beauty of this place...”

Mur fy mebyd, Foel Drigarn, Carn Gyfrwy, Tal Mynydd,
Wrth fy nghefn ym mhob annibyniaeth barn.
A'm llawr o'r Witwg i'r Wern ac i lawr i'r Efail
Lle tasgodd y gwreichion sydd yn hŷn na harn.

Wall of my boyhood, Moel Drigarn, Carn Gyfrwy, Tal Mynydd,
In my mind's independence ever at my back;
And my floor, from Witwig to Wern and to the smithy
Where from an essence older than iron, the sparks were struck.

from Waldo Williams: “Preseli”



Patterns of use

“The way nature, farming, history, Welsh language and culture, and people now are intertwined.”

The National Park is today essentially a managed landscape, with large areas shaped by farming. Today, this is predominantly dairy farming, with beef, sheep, and some arable. Iconic Pembrokeshire hedgerows, farm woods and trees in the landscape form an intricate patchwork, a network essential to wildlife, while fieldnames hint at former homes, owners or land uses.

Today, the specific circumstances and access restrictions on the Castlemartin Range enable extensive land management to continue, including ‘hafod a hendre’ - transhumance between the Range and the Preseli Hills.

Earth heritage

“Ceibwr, Moylegrove is a wild and secluded place with awe-inspiring geology.”

The area is exceptional geologically; earth heritage was a key reason for the National Park’s designation. Rugged cliffs and rock formations relate the ongoing story of millions of years of geological activity.

The National Park contains evidence of ancient landscapes, fossilised remains, and geological processes, making it a world-famous resource for research and education. There are 51 Geological Conservation Review sites (sites of national or international importance) and 66 Regionally Important Geological Sites in the National Park.



Recreational opportunity

“Access, both to the popular places and those off the beaten track.”

With natural and cultural attractions like these, the National Park is also exceptionally well-served with the recreational opportunities to enjoy them. Visitors are drawn from near and far, with 7.7 million visitor days in 2022¹¹. Recreation and discovery are enhanced by a broad and inclusive range of outdoor activities, making Pembrokeshire Coast a top destination for people seeking relaxation, exploration, or adventure.

“The scenery and the fact that it is the only coastal National Park in the UK. It is wonderful to be able to access so many wonderful walks apart from the Coast Path.”

Community and stewardship

For all these reasons and more, residents and visitors forge lifelong bonds with the Pembrokeshire Coast. The National Park provides a shared focus and unites people in a sense of community and stewardship, place, identity, and pride.

“For jobs related to the National Park, there needs to be a wide range of people employed from young to old, from different ethnic, social backgrounds to get different perspectives in the National Park.”

¹¹STEAM Final Trend Report for 2011-2022 for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Global Tourism Solutions UK Ltd.





3 The State of the Park – challenges and opportunities

The previous section sets out the special qualities of the National Park. Here we report on the state of the National Park, including the landscape and natural and cultural resources which underpin the special qualities, and attributes of community well-being.

A range of outcome measures are presented in this section. Some of these (and others) are featured in online maps to help inform this consultation. These ‘vital signs’ have been chosen to help evaluate the direction and rate of travel with regard to National Park purposes and include data on:

- The state of the National Park (outcomes)
- Trends in issues (factors affecting outcomes)
- Efforts which contribute to National Park purposes (impacts).

National Park Partnership Plan 2025 (arctis.com)
or <https://tinyurl.com/fhyyttue>

Where are we now?

Landscapes and seascapes

“...campsites and holiday homes...I think we have enough to cater for tourism we do not need encourage further supply.”



LANDMAP is the national information system, maintained by Natural Resources Wales, for taking landscape into account in decision-making, based on five aspects: geology, habitat cover, visual and sensory attributes, historic character, and cultural associations.

Planning Policy Wales recognises LANDMAP as an important resource for local planning authorities in making the landscape assessments needed to inform local policy, guidance and decision-making, as the basis of a Wales-wide approach to landscape assessment.

The National Park Authority commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment in 2006, based on LANDMAP information and covering a combination of the five LANDMAP aspects. The Assessment identified 28 distinct Landscape Character Areas lying within or partly within the National Park.

A similar assessment has been carried out for seascape character. This identifies 44 Seascape Character Areas for the coast and inshore territorial waters up to 12 nautical miles from the Pembrokeshire coast, extending from Cardigan Island in the north to the Taf estuary in Carmarthen Bay in the south. The study area reaches inland to include the areas of the Milford Haven Waterway outside the National Park, and up to the tidal limits of the Daugleddau.

Landscape Character and Seascape Character assessments identify the attributes of these areas and the challenges they face, and set out management guidance for them. They constitute adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Local Development Plan 2. They are therefore a material



consideration in planning decisions, which are made in accordance with Local Development Plan 2. Decisions contrary to policy are monitored through an annual monitoring report. Planning approval conditions are also monitored and enforced, as is unauthorised development.

Landscape and seascape quality are vulnerable to a number of pressures. Most of the issues identified in this Partnership Plan have implications of for the appearance and functioning of the landscape. However, the following are of particular relevance for landscape and seascape quality and for the ecological functions that underpin it:

- *Land management practices*, which have particular implications for semi-natural habitat and associated wildlife, and for management of natural resources such as soils and water
- *Development*, which needs to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park
- *Climate change*, which could significantly alter the distribution of biodiversity, crops, farming practice, and the appearance of the coast, low lying areas and hills.

Wildlife

“Extend the wild areas that exist through landscape scale projects.”

The state of wildlife remains a major concern going into this Plan cycle. Wildlife in general is suffering catastrophic declines. *The State of Nature: Wales 2023* reports that Welsh wildlife has in general decreased by 20% since 1994, and one



in six species in Wales is at risk of extinction. Although 11% of Wales' land is designated for nature conservation, only 35% of assessed features were in favourable condition. Half of Wales' marine area is included in marine protected areas, but fewer than 50% of the features within them are in favourable condition. The report concludes that, despite some progress, Wales' biodiversity and its wider environment continue to decline and degrade.

“Please protect the biodiversity we are at a tipping point - A National Park should be conserved for future generations. A move towards Nature tourism and away from Adventure Tourism would be very welcomed.”

The “30x30” target agreed at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference 2022 is to protect and manage 30% of the earth's surface for nature by 2030¹². To deliver on this, areas designated for conservation need to be better, bigger and more connected, and based on the principles of resilient ecological networks¹³.

Designated nature conservation sites are essential components for restoring connectivity and ecosystem functioning. The National Park Authority is however mindful

¹²The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020 to 2021 (gov.wales) is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales. It sets out how the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20 in Wales) is addressed in Wales. A new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was agreed at COP15 in December 2022. All parties, including the UK, are required to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy to outline their approach to meeting the goals and targets set out in the new framework. In Wales, during the Biodiversity Deep Dive, the Minister for Climate Change agreed to revise the Natural Resources Policy and National Biodiversity Strategy (currently the Nature Recovery Action Plan) to reflect Deep Dive recommendations and post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹³Natural Resources Wales / Practitioners' guide to Resilient Ecological Networks



that designation does not necessarily confer protection. Within the National Park boundary, and even within protected sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the conservation status of habitats and species is often unfavourable, and the ecosystems of which they form one element are fragmented and dysfunctional.

“...only 14% of the SSSI land in the Park is in favourable condition – the Park is not currently delivering for nature.”

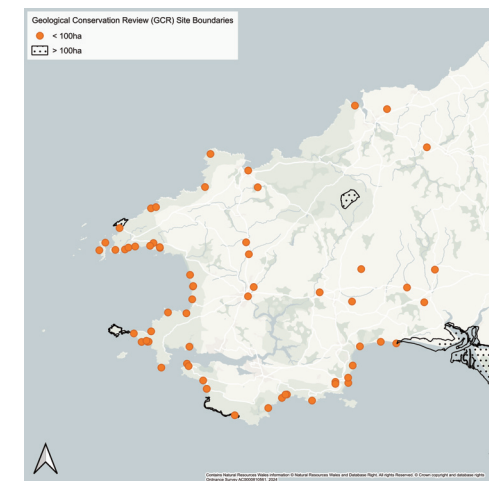
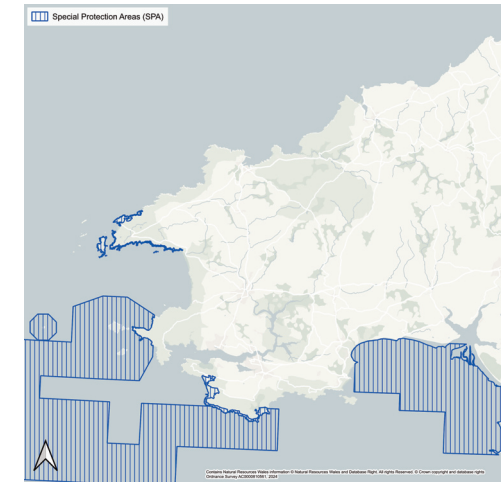
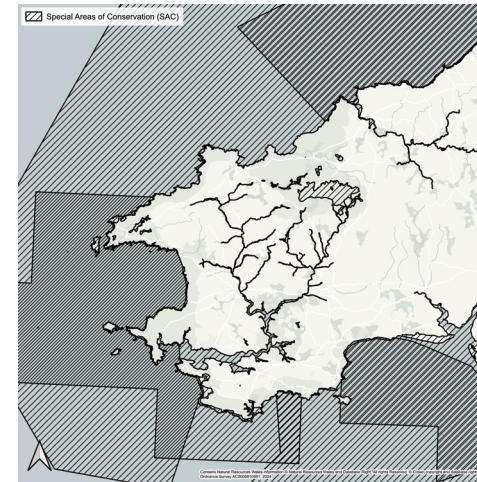
Similarly, designated sites cannot exist in isolation and the wider countryside and the wider marine environment must be able to provide the ecosystem functions necessary to the integrity of protected sites.

“These are huge issues and the responses may seem glib, but we simply cannot go on without greater regulation, enforcement and education to address pollution and ignorant and irresponsible behaviour.”

The state of designated conservation sites

The biodiversity importance of the National Park is reflected in the high number of designated conservation sites. The following lie wholly or partly within the National Park:

- 13 Special Areas of Conservation (Cardigan Bay, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries, Cleddau Rivers, Gweunydd Blaencleddau, Limestone Coast of South West Wales, North Pembrokeshire Woodlands, North West Pembrokeshire Commons, Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes, Pembrokeshire Marine, Preseli, River Teifi, St Davids, Yrbeston Tops)



Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Geological Conservation Review sites within or partly within the National Park

- 5 Special Protection Areas (Ramsey and St Davids Peninsula Coast, Skokholm and Skomer, Grassholm, Castlemartin Coast, and Carmarthen Bay)
- 60 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 7 National Nature Reserves (Pengelli Forest, Ramsey, Skokholm, Skomer, Stackpole, Ty Canol, Grassholm)
- 1 Marine Conservation Zone (Skomer)
- 1 Local Nature Reserve (Freshwater East)

“The Afon Nyfer habitats suffer from any pollution of the river and the spreading of invasive species such as Himalayan balsam. The road verges that wind through the park suffer when the cut is done before flowers set seed. Insects are given little time to complete their cycles before they are shredded by the mowing technique. And bordering fields are cultivated and slurried without an edge left for wildlife.”

About 80% of the length of the National Park coastline is designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The boundaries of three marine European Marine Sites overlap 75% of the National Park’s coastline, and account for about 60% of the inshore area.

Based on data collected by Natural Resources Wales, the status of Special Areas of Conservation lying wholly or partly within the National Park is estimated in the tables opposite.

Special Area of Conservation feature status	Number of features	Percentage of features
Favourable	35	36%
Unfavourable	58	60%
No data	4	4%

Special Protection Area feature status	Number of features	Percentage of features
Favourable	6	75%
Unfavourable	1	12.5%
No data	1	12.5%

“Some of what is needed to protect nature and the “special qualities” of the National Park requires changes to the law, not to mention better funding. Can the PCNPA help formulate what is needed in order to make National Parks better able to protect the special areas they were created to cover?”

Recreation and discovery

A National Park should help inspire in people a lifelong interest in the environment and help change attitudes and behaviour towards it. Understanding, enjoyment and conservation of the National Park and of the wider environment are inextricably linked. Recreation usually involves learning and learning should be enjoyable; both can give people new perspectives on their surroundings and on themselves.

Outdoor recreation and learning also contribute significantly to people’s health and wellbeing and are a mainstay of the region’s economy. By managing the landscape that people come to enjoy and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail, inland rights of way, beaches and car parks that the majority of visitors use, the National Park Authority and its partners manage and protect some of the most important visitor facilities in Pembrokeshire.

“Use social media, tourism, social prescribing etc to encourage more beneficial understanding, connections and mutual care between people living inside and outside the Park, particularly young



people living elsewhere, who face such a difficult and uncertain future. Use nature to encourage hope and drive actions to stop the harm of our interdependent future.”

While Pembrokeshire has the highest participation rate in outdoor recreation in Wales, two thirds of residents are underactive. Across Wales, barriers to participation include time, disability, health issues and age, and barriers faced by some ethnic minorities, marginalised groups and faith groups. Scope exists to increase the number of people enjoying the National Park, particularly in the cases where activities are non-intrusive and take place in off-peak periods. There is also ample scope to welcome a more representative cross-section of society to the National Park.

The National Park offers world-class opportunities for coastal walking, climbing and watersports. People appreciate the landscape and beaches in particular and are generally very satisfied with their experience of the National Park and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail, with a high percentage of visitors returning again and again. There is latent demand amongst adults resident in Wales for walking and off-road cycling, and strong interest in paddlesports, coasteering, camping, foraging and bushcraft amongst young people in Pembrokeshire.

Negative impacts of recreation on the National Park special qualities, its communities or other users tend to be localised in space and in time. While they can present management challenges, they can also be solved, for example through voluntary agreements and codes of conduct for user groups.



That said, there are limited forms of sanction for the minority who behave irresponsibly or break codes of conduct (unless a crime has been committed). The National Park Authority and its partners are aware of some acute and persistent issues.

“Stronger nature conservation and planning measures to protect nature - with many species under threat and a goal for Wales of protecting nature, SSSIs and SACs should have more teeth, and nesting birds and beaches with seal pups should be better protected.”

People’s awareness of the purposes of UK national parks is generally good, and national parks are important to them. However, people find it difficult to name specific national parks and there is confusion about who owns and manages them. While general environmental awareness is increasing, specific knowledge about biodiversity, and possibly other special qualities of national parks, is relatively poor and it is possible that it will get progressively worse, as wildlife itself declines and as inter-generational awareness is lost.

“Disturbance, dogs and irresponsible humans cause a great deal of damage. Stop advertising wilder parts of the park as places to explore, they don’t need the disturbance.”

Historically, National Park user groups and audiences have not reflected the breadth and diversity of UK society, and have neglected some local audiences. The National Park Authority and its partners need to keep innovating in terms



of communication and engagement, to work to remove remaining barriers to enjoying and learning about the National Park, and to reach people living within or close to the National Park boundary, as well as those beyond it.

Lack of access to toilets can prevent or make it difficult for people to access recreational, volunteering, social and community engagement opportunities in the National Park. This is exacerbated for people who have additional needs relating to health, disability, faith or caring responsibilities. Provision of accessible and changing place toilets play an important role in supporting disabled people and carers accessing the Park. Poor toilet provision will impact on ability of locations within Park to be age and dementia friendly.

While everyone should be able to enjoy and learn about the National Park, particular audiences will continue to exist. These include people that influence National Park management (including land managers and policy-makers), people that live in and visit the National Park, and people who can help achieve specific management goals (for example owners of listed buildings). Young people are a particularly important audience. Evidence suggests that, irrespective of performance in conventional learning settings, young people derive major benefits from outdoor learning and practical work, in terms of learning outcomes, health and wellbeing, and personal and social responsibility. In general, there appears to be a progressive separation of children from the rest of nature, linked to excessive screen time (a beguiling alternative), an impoverished environment (which is less attractive for exploration) and safety concerns. This has contributed to childhood weight issues, an increase in asthma, and a



decrease in cardiovascular fitness in children. Lack of contact with nature is also partly implicated in an increase in behavioural and emotional problems.

Conversely, exposure to the natural environment, especially through active recreation and outdoor learning, can reduce stress and aggressive behaviour, increase attention span and improve mood and self-esteem. The National Park Authority and partner organisations have been successful in working with primary schools, but a limitation on working with secondary schools is the availability of teachers during the day. This makes it more important to involve children through extra-curricular activities, giving scope to include young people who may fall outside the National Curriculum.

The Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail is 186 miles (300km) in length with an additional 30 km of managed alternative routes at tidal crossings and military firing ranges. The National Park Authority manages the Pembrokeshire Coast Path with funding from Natural Resources Wales. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path is now part of the 870-mile long Wales Coast Path. It runs through spectacular scenery and wildlife, is a constant feature of the Pembrokeshire coastline and one of the main ways that visitors can explore and enjoy the coastline of the National Park.

The Coast Path is therefore an intrinsic part of the Pembrokeshire's tourism offer and an attraction in its own right. It is complemented by 1,000+ km of inland rights of way, including 180km of bridleways, almost all across privately-owned land. Within the National Park these are managed by the National Park Authority under a delegation agreement with Pembrokeshire County Council. While the



open network is about 87% of the total, it meets the majority of user demand. There are about 6,600 hectares of access land.

The coastal scenery and beach and inshore recreation are the basis of the tourism product of Pembrokeshire. There are more than 50 clearly identifiable beaches in the National Park; on most of them the foreshore is leased by the National Park Authority from The Crown Estate, with beaches east of Giltar Point leased by Pembrokeshire County Council. Many of the beachheads are in public ownership and most beach management functions are provided by Pembrokeshire County Council, working closely with Natural Resources Wales, The National Trust, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the National Park Authority and others.

“Please, make the national park more accessible for people with a disability.”

“We need to improve access to many beaches, e.g. Newgale, as it’s very difficult for anyone with mobility issues to get across high pebble defences.”

The coastal strip, Daugleddau and Eastern and Western Cleddau rivers form a key recreational interface in the National Park and the National Park Authority and partner organisations work to promote and manage water-related activities, subject to the achievement of management policies for wildlife, landscape and heritage conservation. There are excellent opportunities for accessing open-water swimming, surfing, kayaking/canoeing, windsports and for otherwise enjoying the water, exploring the coast and discovering wildlife, with benefits to people’s health,



wellbeing and personal development, as well as providing income to the region.

Tides and topography limit navigation in inshore waters for some craft, and military ranges constrain access to sea danger areas off the south coast. Harbour access outside the Haven is heavily tide-dependent and this, added to the exposed nature of much of the coast, tidal rips, and sea danger areas, limits the potential for expansion of coastal cruising. There has however been a recent major increase in paddling, paddleboarding and rowing use which have the advantages of sustainability, affordability and, particularly in the case of rowing, a strong community element.

A large number of slipways exist around the coast and on the Milford Haven Waterway, in numerous ownerships. Most slipways are unsupervised and free. While this makes them popular it can also make it more difficult to fund their maintenance and to manage inappropriate activities if necessary. Many launch sites are in village or remote locations with narrow road access unsuitable for larger vehicle / trailer combinations, while launching across small beaches can cause disruption and pose risks to other users.

Subject to tide and draught there is good upriver boat access on the Milford Haven Waterway to Haverfordwest and Canaston Bridge. While there are no rivers with navigation rights above the tidal limits in Pembrokeshire, opportunities for negotiated access may exist outside the National Park on the Eastern and Western Cleddau rivers. The only significant non-tidal rivers in the National Park are the Nevern and the Gwaun. Both are open for fishing use and offer riverside footpaths but on-water recreation potential (subject to agreement) is limited to in-spite canoe use.



“Define areas for different types of activity: coastering and paddleboarding in one place, quiet birdwatching in another; some places just for the seals and auks.”

Tranquillity

“The peace and quiet - being able to escape.”

Tranquillity has been defined as “a state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of a landscape” (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environment Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition).

Although a significant area of the National Park can be considered tranquil by most definitions, traffic noise and insensitive or illegal use of vehicles can erode peace and quiet. Military activity generates significant amounts of noise. Wind turbines, electrical and communication infrastructure may be sited in prominent/ remote areas and can detract from the semi-natural aspect or perceived wildness of an area.

Tranquillity is rarely about silence. It includes sounds which contribute to sense of place, such as farmland birdsong or the hum of insects. The erosion and loss of natural soundscapes, a consequence of biodiversity loss, is likely to be a far more challenging issue than that of addressing unwanted noise.



Night skies

“...light pollution seems to be an increasing issue for our dark skies status, particularly large farms seem to have very bright LED lights now in their cowsheds.”

Based on dark sky mapping commissioned by Natural Resources Wales¹⁴, large areas of the National Park are relatively free of light pollution. There are however significant light sources (including sources outside the National Park) as well as light originating from individual agricultural or business sources in what are otherwise dark areas.

There are eight Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the National Park. These are accessible sites, with associated parking, which afford good views of the night sky on cloudless, moonless nights. The eight sites include Orion sites (from which the seven main stars in the winter constellation Orion are visible to the naked eye) and Milky Way sites (darker sites, where the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye). The sites are:

- Broad Haven South National Trust car park
- Garn Fawr National Trust car park
- Kete National Trust car park
- Martin’s Haven National Trust car park
- Newgale Beach and National Park car park
- Poppit Sands National Park car park
- Skrinkle Haven National Park car park
- Sychpant National Park picnic site

¹⁴A link to a map showing light pollution, commissioned by Natural Resources Wales
<https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1cd6ba8a1d7d4a62aff635cfcbaf4aec>



Climate

“I think that the wild areas and water courses need more land around them and land that connects them. As the climate changes and the general ecology continues to decline it is more important than ever to protect what we have and where we can, enhance it and ensure that it's thriving into the future.”

Climate change, including abrupt change, has in the past led to species migrations and extinctions, and changes in sea-level¹⁵, land cover and ocean circulation.

Human pressures on the environment reduce the options for nature to adapt to climate change. This makes the need to reduce non climate-related human pressures even greater. Maintaining and scaling up conservation action and implementing nature-based solutions is therefore a major and direct response to climate change and resilience, particularly where it enhances habitat area and connectivity.

Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019 and a nature emergency in 2021. The Climate Change Committee's report, *Adaptation and the Nature Emergency*¹⁶ (September 2023), outlines seven principles for addressing the joint nature and climate emergency.

The *net zero target* refers to government commitments to ensure that the UK reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050. The Committee on Climate

¹⁵Global sea-level, which appears to be rising and accelerating into the long term. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates put global mean sea-level rise at between 0.43m and 1.1m by 2100, (Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 2.6 and RCP 8.5 emissions scenarios).



Change advises that this results in a 50% chance of avoiding a 'catastrophic' 1.5°C global temperature rise by the year 2100.

Welsh Government has a target for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030 and has identified renewable energy and decarbonisation as one of the priority areas for national park authorities in Wales. The National Park Authority has a target and carbon reduction profile for the National Park area to be net zero by 2048 (see below). The National Park is, with the other UK national parks, working towards joining the United Nations-backed Race to Zero initiative, to halve global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.

There is also a need to plan for and adapt to climate related challenges - coastal erosion and flooding in particular - across the National Park, and to help people to respond to these challenges. This may mean for example preventing some development uses in at-risk locations, or supporting communities to understand how flood risk may affect them. Climate and economic factors will continue to shape visitor season and demand. Wetter winters and increased storminess might make UK holidays less attractive out of the traditional season, but warmer summers might encourage more UK citizens to holiday at home, leading to increased seasonality and more intense recreational pressure. Consequences of climate change on people's recreational experience of the National Park could include:

- A changing landscape and wildlife
- Movement inland of some beaches and loss of others
- More frequent and/or substantial realignments of coastal and other routes due to erosion

Pathway to net zero: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park area (Small World Consulting)



¹⁶A link to the document "Adaptation and the nature emergency" by the Climate Change Committee <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/adaptation-and-the-nature-emergency/>

- Impacts on rights of way quality
- Impacts on bathing water quality

“With rising sea levels and an increase in flooding the Pembrokeshire Coast and areas surrounding rivers may be flooded and underwater in the near future. There needs to be a plan in place if flood defences fail, to relocate buildings, wildlife and people etc so we are preparing for one of the worst case scenarios.”

Socio-economic well-being

“Need more focus on locals as well as tourism - support for businesses, and infrastructure remaining open/accessible out of season, with support for next generation to live and work locally.”

Gross Domestic Product for Pembrokeshire is estimated at £3.6 billion for 2021 (Office for National Statistics data). The top seven ranked employment classes in the National Park for people in work aged 16-74 are: human health and social work activities (13.8%); accommodation and food service activities (13.2%); wholesale and retail trade, vehicle repair (12.4%); construction (9.8%); agriculture, energy and water (8.6%); education (8.1%), and public administration and defence, compulsory social security (6.4%) (Census 2021).

There are specific challenges regarding the provision of jobs and housing, in particular for young people. House prices and rents in the National Park are significantly higher than the rest of Pembrokeshire; the median sale price for houses



in the National Park in 2023 was 9.67 times the median wage¹⁷. As at March 2024, there were 5,238 households on the Pembrokeshire Housing Waiting List, excluding transfers.

At the 2011 Census the National Park had one of the highest rates of second / holiday home use of its general housing stock in England and Wales, at 26.7%. This impacts negatively on housing affordability and support for local facilities.

“...we should be focusing more on repairing existing rundown buildings.”

“Closing and reducing services. From reducing certain library times to closing physical banks.”

While there appears to be no shortage of employment opportunities in Pembrokeshire, the jobs available are often low paid (over 25% of full-time workers earned less than £18,000 per year in 2017) and seasonal (winter benefit claimant rates are almost double those for summer).

The resident population of the National Park at the 2021 census was 20,933, a population decline of 7.6% on the 2011 Census (22,644) and the largest population decline of all the National Parks in England and Wales between the two censuses. The 2021 Census indicates that over a third (33.2%) of usual residents are 65 and over. Additional pressures placed by this on access to services include:

- Increased demand for health care services and longer wait times.
- Adaptation of public transport to accommodate older

¹⁷Based on postcodes that have at least a third of their area within the National Park.



passengers and the potential for isolation as a result of lack of transport provision.

- Fewer people of working age to help provide for these needs.

The National Park is well-populated with only a few significant unpopulated areas. The population is however dispersed, which adds to the challenges of access to services and travel-based carbon reductions. Closure of local services and the distance of travel to some services mean that access to essential services can be difficult in some parts of the National Park. This is aggravated by the relatively high number of households (13.7% at the 2021 Census) that do not own a car.

Most county council wards in the National Park are classified amongst the 10% most deprived in Wales in the 'access to services' domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. The exceptions were St David's, Newport and the area around Tenby and Saundersfoot. The access to services domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation considers access to a food shop, general practice surgery, primary school, secondary school, post office, public library, leisure centre and a National Health Service dentist.

All of the above present significant challenges for National Park communities. These cannot be solved by the National Park Authority alone; the solutions must come from communities, businesses and statutory organisations working together to find solutions.

“Promote political action on CAUSES not just SYMPTOMS.”



“Challenge the idea of everlasting economic expansion.”

The challenges facing local communities in terms of housing are very clear and the National Park Authority has acknowledged the key importance of delivering affordable housing within Local Development Plan 2 and of ensuring jobs and homes for local communities, within the wider context of landscape protection. The National Park Authority will ensure through its planning service and review of the Local Development Plan that appropriate housing and economic policies to support sustainable development are delivered.

Partners such as Registered Social Landlords and building companies are essential to deliver high quality development within this sensitive environment. Ensuring that local jobs and housing are available can support the retention of Welsh speakers within language-sensitive communities. Application of local lettings policies, for affordable housing exception sites, can also assist with reducing the potential for language impacts.

“...understand how fragile Welsh community is and to properly engage with stakeholders and campaigners to explore means of housing local people over the unbridled housing market.”

The tourism economy is a critical economic driver for Pembrokeshire and the beauty of the National Park is a key reason for many to visit the area. Operators can support accessibility and inclusion by working to consider the needs



of visitors who may have additional needs. Broadening access to the National Park can take many forms, from providing access for people with disabilities to providing sensory-friendly activities and events.

Transport

“Improving accessibility using public transport, cycling and walking.”

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is a predominately rural area with a dispersed and ageing population. There are a number of issues regarding the transport system for people who live in, work in or visit the National Park.

Transport for residents and visitors to the National Park is dominated by the private car which places a strain on the designated landscape and local communities.

There are limited public transport options for residents and visitors. Mainline train services serve Pembrokeshire through three rail lines to Fishguard, Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock. Services are infrequent and slow and there are limited plans to enhance this provision. Bus services in Pembrokeshire are reliant on public subsidy which is under significant pressure.

The Active Travel Network Maps for Pembrokeshire show existing and planned walking and cycling routes. These are concentrated around the main settlements and there is a need to develop more active travel opportunities within towns and villages. Pembrokeshire has a network of cycle routes, however, the majority of cycle routes are on road.



It is vital that the transport system in the next 15-20 years meets the needs of rural, as well as urban areas. To do this, the following components are needed:

- Support and development of active travel options throughout towns and villages. In rural areas where distances are typically greater, there is scope for safe use of electric bikes to play a greater part in active travel choices
- Better provision of cycle parking within towns and villages and at primary visitor destinations
- Support for public transport services to enable a shift away from reliance on the private car and make public transport a viable and attractive option for residents and visitors. Public transport options need to be affordable and accessible to all, including older and disabled people. Bus infrastructure needs improvement: better quality waiting areas and shelters, information provision and real time information displays, information on bus fares and improve integration between services
- More frequent, faster, more dependable mainline train services to Pembrokeshire. Integration between public transport modes is required to make public transport an attractive choice and provision needs to be made for visitors who wish to visit Pembrokeshire car-free

“Please, make the national park more accessible for people with a disability.”



The historic environment

Scheduled Monuments

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 provides the legal framework for the designation, protection and management of scheduled monuments in Wales. Welsh Ministers, acting through the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw), compile and maintain a schedule of monuments of national importance, which is used to manage operations on and around the sites.

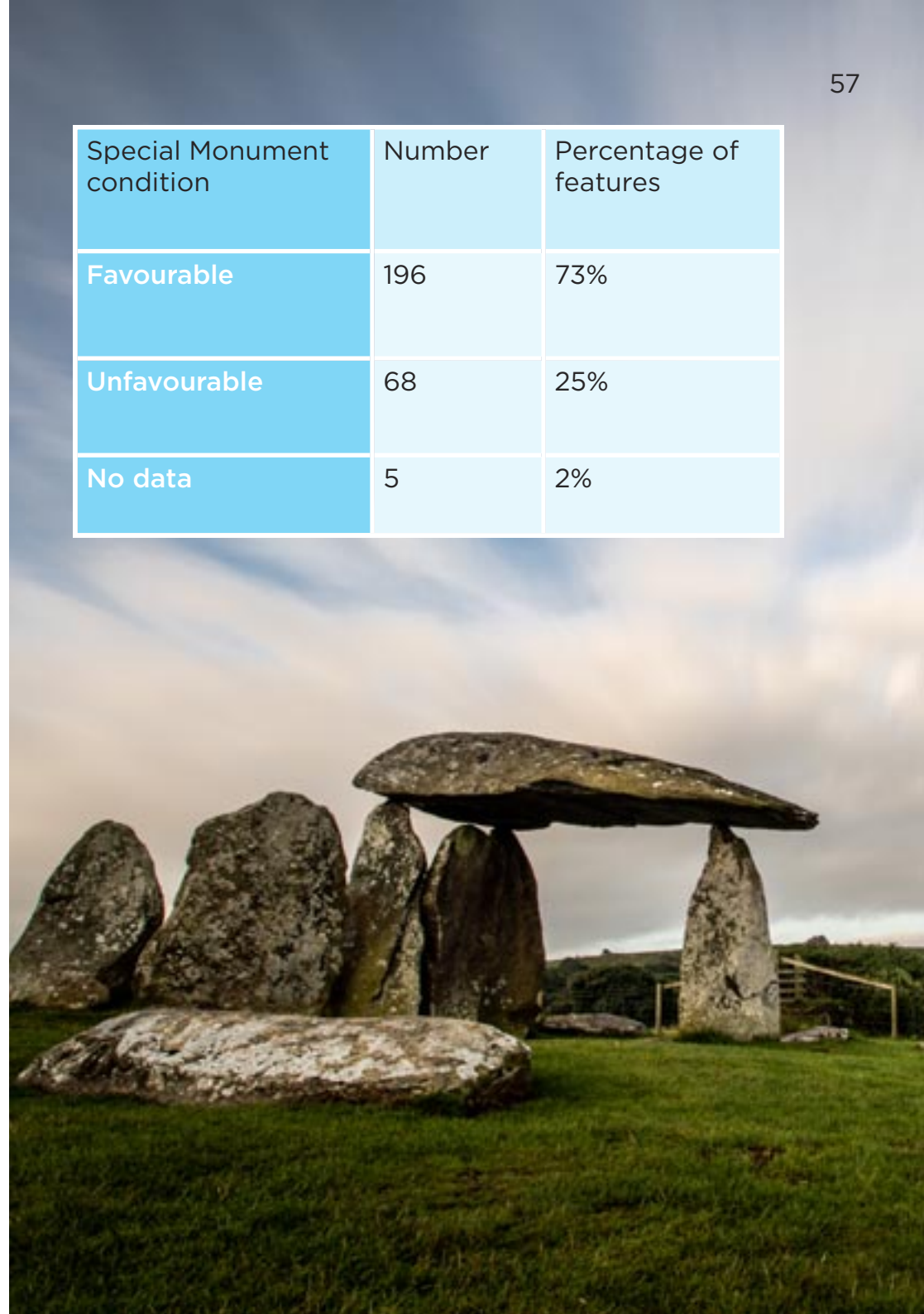
Scheduled Monuments represent an important cross-section of the known archaeological resource. The Historic Environment Record for the National Park area contains more than 280 Scheduled Monuments. Over time, more categories of monuments will be considered, and more sites will be scheduled.

Some data on the condition of Scheduled Monuments in the National Park is available and has been provided by Cadw (September 2021). The data is not comprehensive and trend data is not currently available.

The number of Scheduled Monuments in unfavourable condition is due in part to coastal erosion, which makes degradation and eventual loss of some monuments inevitable, and which may make interim management unsafe. Coastal erosion also leads to more frequent discovery of at-risk sites and monuments, which further inflates the figure.

Many larger historic assets are cared for and managed by partners such as Cadw and the National Trust. The National Park Authority manages Castell Henllys Iron Age Village and Carew Castle and Tidal Mill, bringing history and pre-history alive.

Special Monument condition	Number	Percentage of features
Favourable	196	73%
Unfavourable	68	25%
No data	5	2%



Non-scheduled historic assets

While Scheduled Monuments are protected by law, there are approximately 10,000 Historic Environment Record assets in the National Park and the vast majority of these are not protected. Risks stem from a range of activities, including agriculture, recreation, plant growth, animal activity and development. Coastal sites, whether or not they enjoy legal protection, may be vulnerable to erosion.

An additional source for historic environment information regarding known sites in the National Park is the National Monuments Record of Wales, part of the Royal Commission. This includes a database of records (some of which will not be held by the Historic Environment Record) together with a wider linked archive. The Royal Commission also manages and regularly updates the Maritime Database for Wales which includes numerous offshore assets around the Pembrokeshire coast.

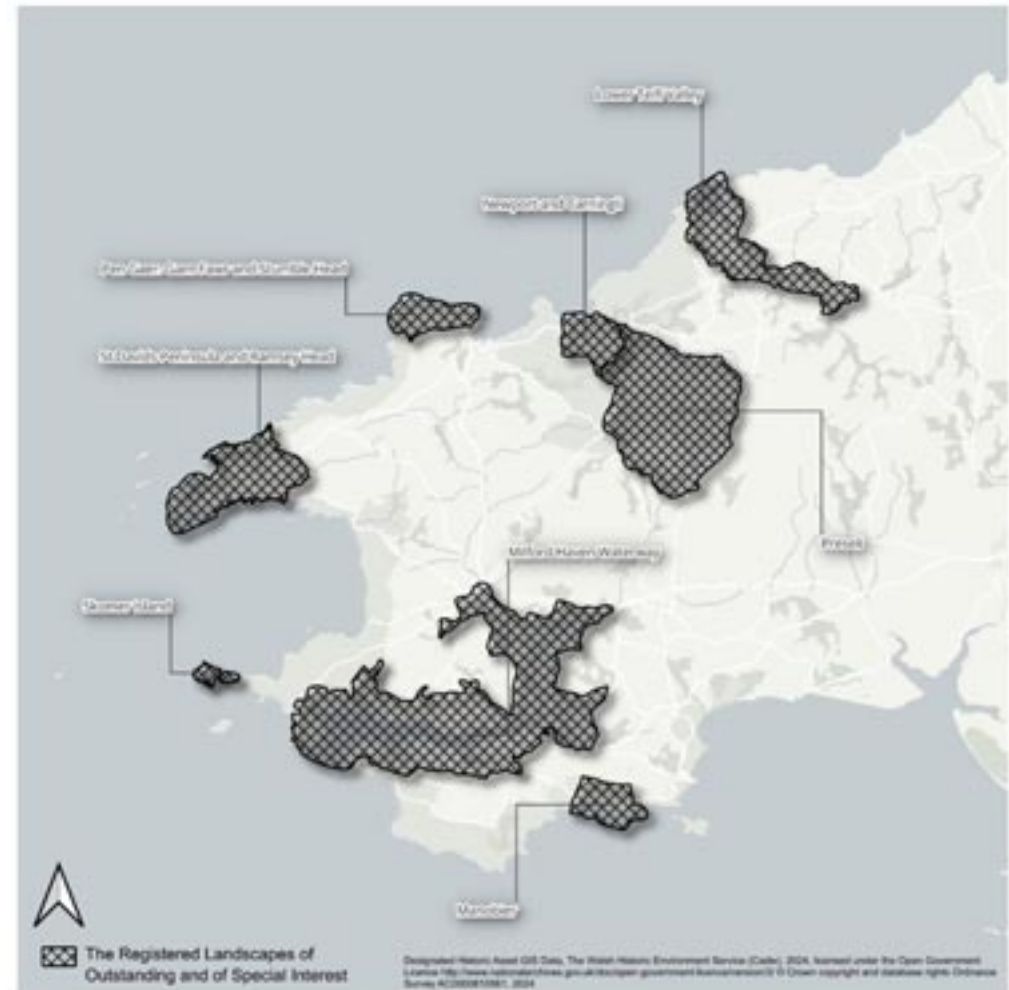
Historic landscape character

“Pencaer peninsula - historic landscape and sea views.”

Significant historic landscapes, the elements that give them their historic character, and the landscape’s risk status, are identified in two Registers.

The Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales is maintained by Cadw, the International Council on Monuments and Sites and Natural Resources Wales. It lists

Map: Registered Historic Landscapes in the National Park



four areas in the National Park: Preseli; St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island; Skomer Island, and the Milford Haven Waterway.

The Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales lists five further National Park historic landscapes: Newport and Carningli; Pen Caer; Stackpole Warren; part of the Lower Teifi Valley, and Manorbier.

Registration does not afford any statutory protection, although it is taken into account in planning decisions and guidance on how better to protect historic landscape through existing statutory instruments. For example, the pattern and nature of field boundaries and vernacular buildings are key features of the National Park, and these have been taken into account in the National Park Authority's Landscape Character Assessment and in its Sustainable Design guide.

The Welsh landscape information system LANDMAP also includes a layer of historic landscape data, used in decision-making.

Listed buildings

Legal recognition of, and protection for, important historic buildings is provided by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023.

Listed Buildings are buildings of special architectural and historic interest, group value, technical importance or association with important people / events. The number of Listed Buildings therefore reflects the significance and diversity of the historic built environment. Listed Buildings



represent the best examples of the National Park's historic built resource and range from medieval churches and castles to milestones and telephone kiosks.

Cadw is responsible for designating Listed Buildings. Buildings can also be individually spot-listed. Listing covers not only the building itself, and its interior, but also its curtilage and buildings which pre-date 1948 within the curtilage. Listed Buildings are graded as I, II* and II according to their importance. There are over 1,200 Listed Buildings in the National Park: 33 of Grade I and 76 of Grade II*.

Most of the legally-protected historic buildings in the National Park are in good condition, although a number require repair and would benefit from re-use. 5.5% are identified as being at risk.

Conservation Areas

Areas of special architectural or historic interest are designated as Conservation Areas by the National Park Authority. There are 14 within the National Park: Angle, Caerfarchell, Caldey Island, Little Haven, Manorbier, Portclew, Porthgain, Saundersfoot, Solva, St Davids, Tenby (extended in 2019), Trevine, Newport and Newport Parrog. A Conservation Area in Nevern is under consideration, and other areas may be considered within the life of this Partnership Plan.

After designating Conservation Areas, the National Park Authority has a statutory duty to produce Conservation Area Statements, and Proposals Documents. These have been drawn up in partnership with the Conservation Area Working Groups (elected through the relevant City / Town / Community Councils), with full public consultation. The



Character Statements assess the importance of the Conservation Areas, together with their physical condition and risk factors.

The National Park Authority produced and adopted a Conservation Area Proposals Supplementary Planning Guidance in October 2022. Article 4 directions are applied to Little Haven, Newport, Solva, St Davids and Tenby conservation areas; these directions restrict permitted development and will help to further protect these areas.

Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

Cadw, the International Council on Monuments and Sites and Natural Resources Wales maintain a Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The Register identifies the importance of the listed parks and gardens, but currently does not give them statutory protection.

There are 15 historic Parks and Gardens in the National Park: Boulston Old Hall; Colby Lodge; Coshaston Hall; Cresselly; Lawrenny; St Brynach's Churchyard; St Brides Castle; Upton Castle; Warpool Court Hotel; Caldey Priory; Trewarren; Picton Castle; Slebech Park; Coedcanlas; and Stackpole Court.

These are graded on a criteria basis and consist of 1 Grade I, 2 Grade II* and 12 Grade II sites. There is currently no condition or risk survey for Historic Parks and Gardens.

Local distinctiveness

Local building character contributes to the distinctiveness of the built heritage in the National Park. There is currently no agreed way of measuring the rate of change in local building character, but the likelihood is that it is in some cases being eroded by neglect and misrepair.



The Welsh language

“...protect Welsh language and culture heartlands within the national park, policies to do with housing and holiday accommodation, more jobs for local people, more support and money for landowners to support positive landscape interventions and environmental benefits.”

“Although “priceless” there must be a way to place a value on these qualities, including the work local farming families do to preserve the environment, Welsh language and culture. Promote the learning and use of Welsh language as the wonderful asset it is. E.g. by using Welsh place names. Help meet the Welsh language speakers target.”

The prevalence of Welsh speakers varies significantly across the county. The Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment baseline provides greater detail (by community council area) of the proportion of persons who could speak Welsh at the 2021 census. The map below illustrates the percentages of people who can speak Welsh (2021 Census figures) by community council area¹⁸.

“Hoffwn obeithio y byddai un o amcanion y Parc Cenedlaethol, ynghyd â gwarchod a hyrwyddo rhinweddau tirwedd eithriadol yr ardal hefyd yn ymestyn i warchod a hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg, treftadaeth a diwylliant ein hardal.”

The table below shows the proportion of Welsh speakers in the National Park and the county of Pembrokeshire at the 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses. Source: Office for National Statistics

Area	Welsh speakers 2001 Census (%)	Welsh speakers 2011 Census (%)	Welsh speakers 2021 Census (%)
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	23.3%	21.5%	19.4%
Pembrokeshire	21.5%	18.4%	20.7%

Welsh language and culture continue to evolve and are an integral part of a new, inclusive, vibrant and contemporary culture.

Welsh Language dialect (Pembrokeshire)

Parts of Pembrokeshire are known as the land of “Wês, wês” due to the dialect of Welsh spoken in these areas. One of the central characteristics of Pembrokeshire Welsh is that the syllable ‘oe’ is pronounced as ‘wê’ or ‘wê’ in single syllables in the dialect. So ‘oes’ becomes ‘wês’ (yes), ‘oer’ becomes ‘wer’ (cold) ‘ddoe’ becomes ‘dwê’ (yesterday) and ‘coed’ becomes ‘cwêd’ (tree).

Other words found in the Pembrokeshire dialect include ‘perci’ for ‘caeau’ (fields), ‘cered’ for ‘cerdded’ (to walk), ‘tewi’ for ‘tywydd’ (weather) and ‘wsnoth’ for ‘wythnos’ (week)¹⁹.

The distinct Welsh dialect of Pembrokeshire can be heard in the northern area of the National Park.

The South Pembrokeshire dialect

The South Pembrokeshire dialect is highly flavoured by the Anglo-Norman settlement of the area when the Welsh language was increasingly replaced with the English spoken by settlers from the West Country. Many Flemish traders were encourage to settle here in the early twelfth century, with Flemish still being spoken some four centuries later. The historically intermediate zone between the ‘Englishry’ and ‘Welshry’ (later labelled the ‘Landsker’) is still apparent linguistically. However the ‘Landsker’ is likely to continue to become less distinct over time as Welsh-speaking develops across Pembrokeshire, supported by Welsh language education opportunities.



‘Can speak Welsh’ (%) by Community Council area
Census 2021

¹⁸For the year ending 31st December 2023, the Annual Population Survey estimated that 29.2% of people aged three years or over in Wales as a whole were able to speak Welsh; this figure equates to around 896,300 people (Office for National Statistics).

¹⁹Rhint y Gelaets a'r Grug, Tafodiaith Sir Benfro, Wyn Owens, Y Lolfa, 2013

Many words commonly used in the area stem from the settlers from the west of England - words such as culm (small coal), drang (alleyway), lake (confusingly, river) and evil (hay-fork). A few words have Flemish origins such as 'slop' (gap in a hedge) and hadridge (wild charlock).

Many placenames exist from this period, for example the suffix 'ton' is typical of English settlement. The survival also of many Welsh placenames across the area, such as Pwllcrochan and Rhoscrowther, suggests that pockets of the Welsh language also continued to thrive. Some older placenames did inevitably change - Merthyr Tywai becoming Martletwy for example.

There are many wonderful dialect words still in use today. 'Why aye' and 'Why no' are still common, 'in a caffle' or 'all to clush' (muddled), 'kift (awkward), 'pile' (to throw), 'grip' (ditch) and 'stumming' (hot) or stivvling (cold). Some lovely words and phrases describe personal characteristics such as 'tamping' (angry) 'plenty of kidney' (boastful) a 'hernie' (sly person), 'talking rammass' (telling tall tales) and 'slammocky' (untidy person).

Local people still use their own pronunciation for placenames. These include 'Langum' (Llangwm), 'The Ross' (The Rhos), 'La-hadden' (Llawhaden), 'Landewy' (Llanddewi Velfey) and Sandersfoot (Saundersfoot). Some placenames are clipped such as 'Harfat' (Haverfordwest), 'Tish' (St Ishmaels) and 'Satson' (Sageston).

Finally, there is the almost forgotten Tenby 'backslang' invented to confound the Brixham trawlermen in the nineteenth century. The rule is to move the first letter of a word to its end and then add an 'a'. Thus, Tenby becomes 'Enbyta'.



Water quality

“Agricultural river pollution, overdevelopment within park boundaries

There is a huge issue with the amount of slurry that is spread indiscriminately in fields within (and outside) the park...this calls for much more regulation.”

Under the Water Framework Directive 2000 classification system, water bodies in the National Park are generally in “moderate” condition, according to the most recent assessments, which were carried out in 2021. Status is determined by both biological and chemical data, which are combined to give an overall status of high, good, moderate, poor or bad, based on the lowest reported class from the different elements monitored.

Revisions to Joint Nature Conservation Committee monitoring guidance have led Natural Resources Wales to review its conservation objectives for riverine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales, notably with respect to phosphorus, where targets have been substantially tightened. In Pembrokeshire, the Afon Teifi and Cleddau Rivers systems are designated as riverine Special Areas of Conservation and are failing against the targets.

The Cleddau Rivers Special Area of Conservation is covered by 19 water bodies over two adjacent systems discharging into the Milford Haven. Much of the catchment consists of intensive dairy farming. The Eastern Cleddau is regulated by two reservoirs while the Western Cleddau has more or less natural flows. There are extensive phosphorus failures on the Cleddau Rivers Special Area of Conservation, including



failures in every water body of the Western Cleddau.

Failures in the Western Cleddau constitute some of the highest sustained phosphorus concentrations in riverine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales. Unlike most other Welsh rivers, the Western Cleddau lacks an upland headwater area to provide a supply of low nutrient water that can dilute downstream nutrient inputs. This, in combination with increasingly intensive agriculture in the catchment, makes it vulnerable to nutrient enrichment.

Phosphorus pollution requires catchment level action to improve river ecosystem quality and function, and to reduce nutrient inputs. Many ecosystem-level actions can increase the resilience of river ecosystems to nutrient pollution, improve their ability to process phosphorus inputs, and have other wider benefits such as increasing the carrying capacity for juvenile salmon.

Summary status of water bodies in the National Park

Status	Length (m)	Percent
Good	29,183	28.70%
Moderate	60,726	59.73%
Poor	11,761	11.57%

Data source: Natural Resources Wales

Overall status of water bodies in the National Park

Category	Number	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad	Not yet assessed
River	85	0	13	69	3	0	0
Lake	4 ²⁰	0	1	2	1	0	0
Transitional	5	0	2	3	0	0	0
Coastal	5	0	2	3	0	0	0
Ground water	5	0	2	0	3	0	0

Data source: Natural Resources Wales (2021)

²⁰Bosherston Lakes are divided into three distinct sections.

In January 2024 Natural Resources Wales published an assessment of the compliance of Welsh riverine Special Areas of Conservation against a number of water quality targets including ammonia. The Cleddau Rivers and Teifi were amongst those with most target failures, with consistent issues with ammonia inputs in the Cleddau Rivers.

Bathing Water Quality

“These days you have to choose your swimming spots very carefully.”

Natural Resources Wales assesses bathing water quality at 29 locations around the National Park coast between May and September each year. The results are then used to project an annual rating / classification, based primarily on the concentrations of faecal coliforms present in the water. In 2022 all of the bathing water locations assessed in the National Park were classified as “Good” or “Excellent” (2 or 3 stars). In 2023 Tenby North returned to Excellent, Amroth dropped to Good and Wisemans Bridge dropped to Sufficient.

The impact of storm overflow sewage discharges is an acute concern. In 2023 a total of 115,525 discharges were counted in Wales as a whole, with untreated sewage being discharged through storm overflows for over a million hours.

“Allow members of the public to get involved in water testing at all our beaches. Help with communication when there are pollution incidents.”



Help us to lobby farmers and Dŵr Cymru to protect the beaches.”

Water resources

Water availability for licensing is set out in Natural Resources Wales' Abstraction Licensing Strategies. These provide an overview of where and how much water is available for new abstraction licences, taking into account existing abstractions and environmental requirements.

River flows change naturally throughout the year, and the objective is to protect flow variability. Resource availability is calculated at four different flows, Q95 (lowest flows), Q70, Q50 and Q30 (highest flows). This information gives a realistic picture of the current resource availability within a given water body (sub-catchment surface water unit or groundwater unit).

The legal framework provides a very high level of protection to Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest also carry a high level of environmental importance. All new licence applications near or within these sites are subject to assessment under the Habitats Directive for potential impacts on site features, alone and in combination with other licences. The Habitats Directive Review of Consents led to some licences being changed and the Eastern and Western Cleddau now have a status of 'No Water Available' (rather than 'Over Licensed').

Natural Resources Wales' *Cleddau and Pembrokeshire Coastal Rivers Abstraction Licensing Strategy* (May 2014) sets out resource availability for specified assessment



points. The published resource availability has not been updated since 2014, but Natural Resources Wales updates the source data in order to advise on applications for new abstraction licences and changes to existing ones.

The Water Resources (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2017 removed most groundwater exemptions from licensing control. Relevant abstractions in Pembrokeshire are covered by the transitional licensing arrangements.

Air quality

Air quality objectives applicable to local air quality management in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 (as amended). Local authorities are statutorily required to produce air quality assessments on a three-yearly basis, with annual progress reports. The National Park area is included within Pembrokeshire County Council's Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessments. Air quality objectives apply to benzene, 1,3 butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide.

Pembrokeshire County Council carries out monitoring at a range of locations within Pembrokeshire. In the case of an exceedance, an Air Quality Management Area is defined and a strategy to reduce the pollutant is put in place. There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the National Park.

While it is not generally possible to comment on ambient air quality away from point (industrial) sources or at roadside sources, there is a general upward trend of nitrogen dioxide concentrations associated with vehicle emissions across Pembrokeshire as a whole.



Water availability for the assessment points of the Cleddau catchments

Ref	Name	Water Resource availability at Q95
1	Western Cleddau at tidal limit	Water not available for licensing
2	Western Cleddau at Prendergast Mill gauging station	Restricted water available for licensing
3	Western Cleddau at Treffgarne	Restricted water available for licensing
4	Western Cleddau at Castlemorris	Restricted water available for licensing
5	Cartlett Brook	Water not available for licensing
6	Anghof at Wolfscastle	Restricted water available for licensing
7	Eastern Cleddau at tidal limit	Water not available for licensing
8	Eastern Cleddau at Canaston Bridge gauging station	Water not available for licensing
9	Eastern Cleddau upstream of Syfynwy	Water not available for licensing
10	Syfynwy upstream of Eastern Cleddau confluence	Water not available for licensing

Water availability for the assessment points of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Rivers catchments

Ref	Name	Water Resource availability at Q95
1	Nevern at tidal limit	Water available for licensing
2	Gwaun at tidal limit	Water available for licensing
3	Gwaun at Cilrhedyn Bridge gauging station	Water available for licensing
4	Alun at St. Davids gauging station	Water available for licensing
5	Solfach at Middle Mill gauging station	Water available for licensing
6	Gann Flats Stream	Water available for licensing
7	Westfield Pill	Water available for licensing
8	Castlemartin Corse	Water available for licensing
9	Ritec	Water available for licensing
10	Cresswell River	Water available for licensing

Ammonia from agricultural sources is also an issue, and air quality baseline loads are currently in exceedance at some of the most sensitive nature conservation sites. This will have a negative impact on receptors susceptible to reactive nitrogen, such as lichens.

Earth heritage

Geological Conservation Review sites

Geological Conservation Review sites are sites of national or international importance, designated under the legislation for Sites of Special Scientific Interest for the feature or features of geological significance within them.

There are 51 Geological Conservation Review sites in the National Park, covering an estimated 40% of the Park's coastline (excluding the Milford Haven Waterway, which includes one site) and a number of inland areas. Many of these Geological Conservation Review sites are of international significance. A map earlier in this Plan illustrates the distribution and size.

The table summarises the last known condition and trend of Geological Conservation Review site features. Condition assessment for geological sites includes consideration of their accessibility, visibility and usability for research and education.

Although the table above suggests good management, most of the work in maintaining geological exposure is done by natural processes (e.g. marine erosion). Some erosion is generally necessary to maintain coastal rock exposures, and is a process of interest in itself. However geological features should be recorded before they are lost and natural



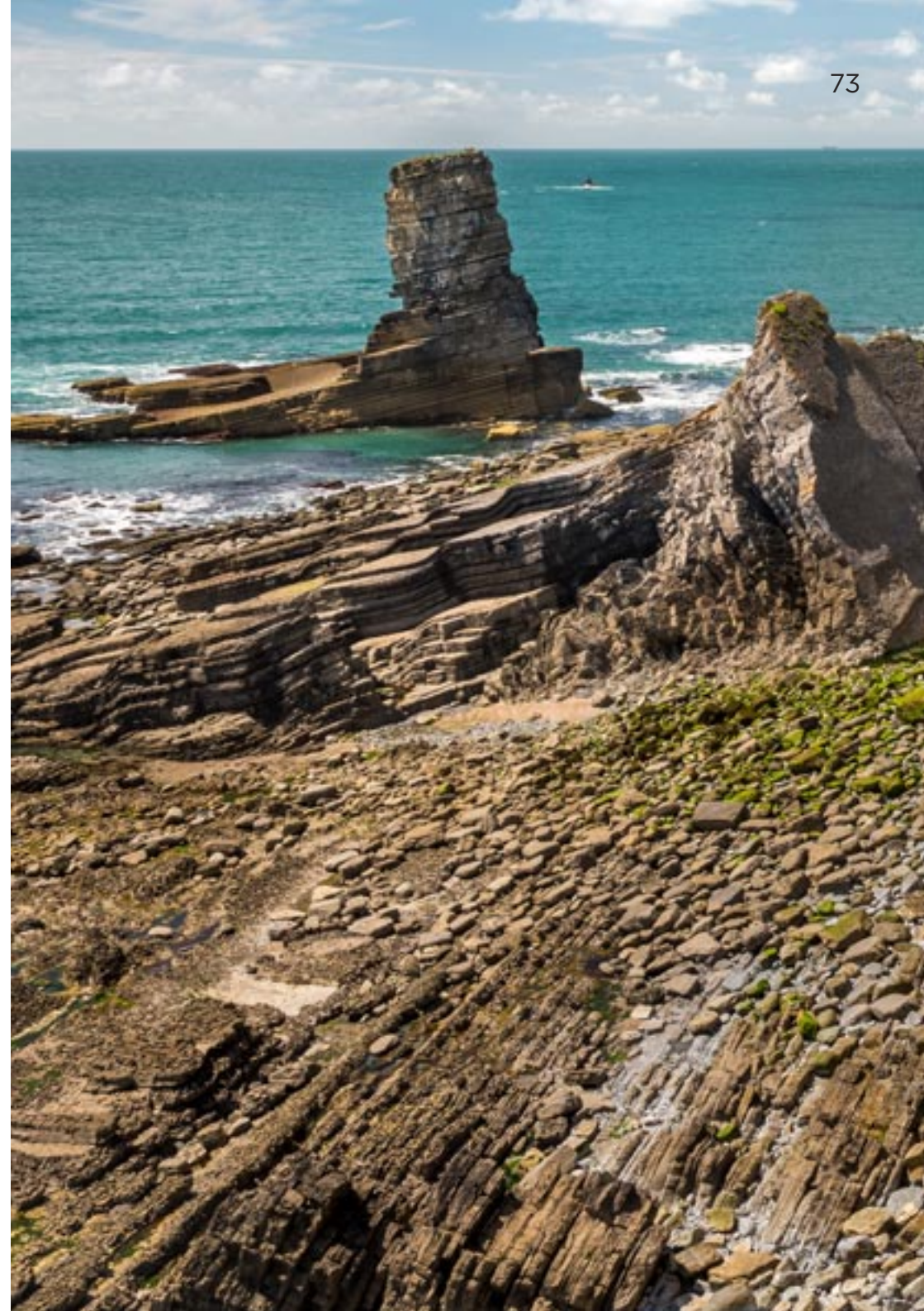
processes documented as they happen. This record would also help inform civil engineering schemes, such as coastal protection projects.

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites are an advisory (i.e. non statutory) designation intended to complement Geological Conservation Review sites.

Sixty-six candidate Regionally Important Geological Sites have been identified in the National Park. Most of these are in coastal locations and are in favourable condition.

Geological Conservation Review site features: condition and trend	Number of features	Percentage of features
Favourable improved or no change	44	72%
Favourable declining	9	15%
Unfavourable	4	6.5%
Unknown	4	6.5%



Soils

The state of soils in the National Park is not well known, but the National Park Authority believes soils to be generally under pressure from land management practices and at risk from the effects of climate change.

Soils take a long time to form and, on human timescales, may be considered as a non-renewable resource. In some cases management change is likely to be urgently required to prevent soil degradation and loss, and / or loss of soil biota. Soil conservation will protect future agricultural revenue, soil biodiversity, and functional roles such as those which soils play in the carbon cycle.

Peaty soils are of particular significance as carbon stores, although they are not extensive in the National Park, occupying about 385 hectares or about 0.6% of the National Park area.

Although carbon storage (combined above and below ground) for woodlands is high, conservation grassland is a stable carbon store and meadow restoration is a more appropriate fit over larger areas of the National Park landscape than new tree-planting. A rough estimate of the carbon benefit of restoring improved grassland (at an existing value of 60 tonnes carbon per hectare) to a mixture of for example species-rich grassland, coastal grassland, scrub and boundary features is an additional 6 tonnes carbon per hectare, i.e. there is a 10% uplift to the new equilibrium.

Welsh Government Predictive Agricultural Land Classification provides indicative data as to where in Wales



the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land (defined as agricultural land classes 1, 2 and 3a) can be found.

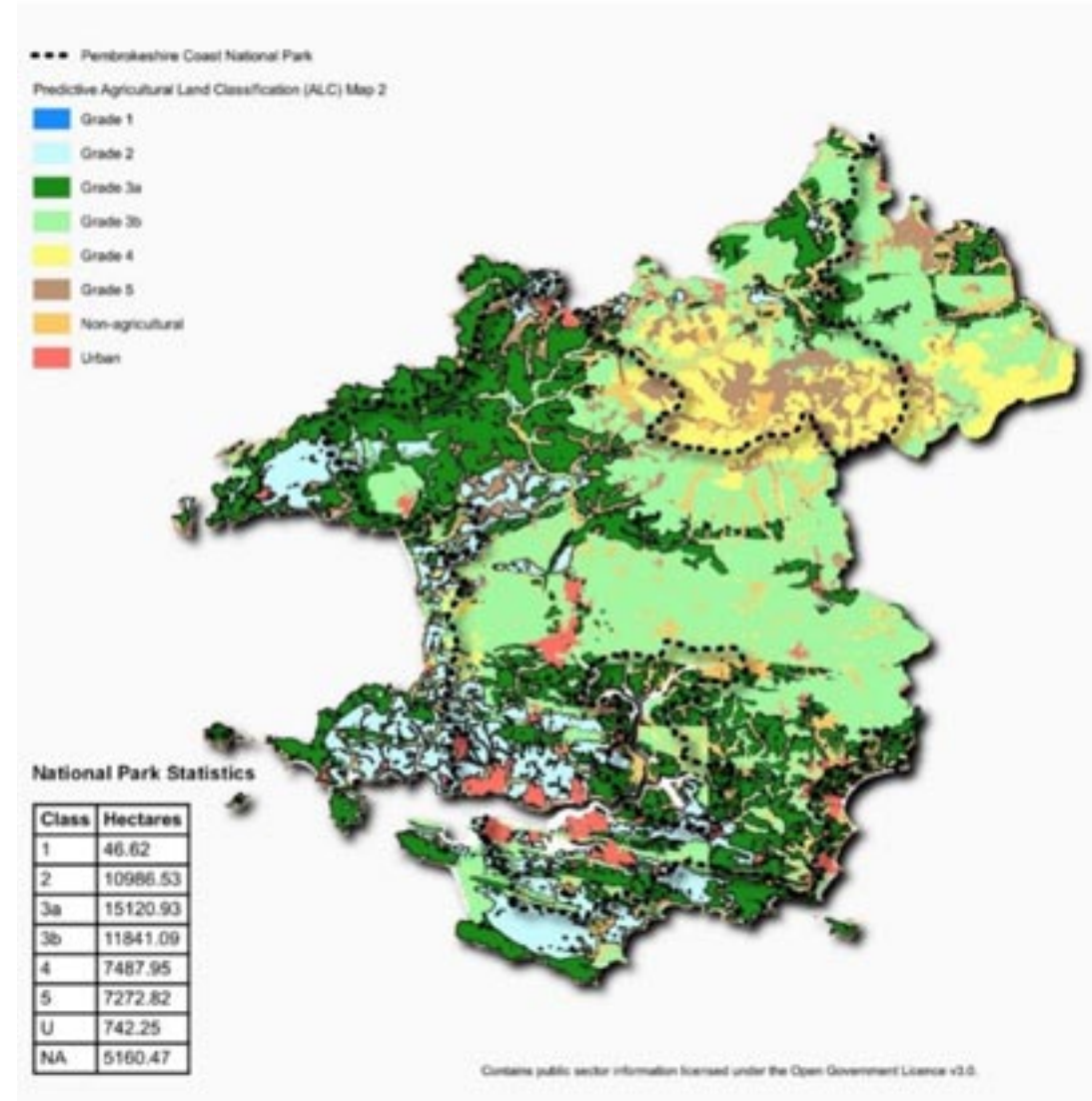
The Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land makes up approximately 45% (44.59%) of the land in the National Park, with over a quarter (25.78%) of the land being classified as 3a; 18.73% as 2 and 0.08% as 1. The proportion of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land in the National Park is significantly higher than it is for Wales as a whole for classes 2 and 3a.

Land Class	Area in National Park (%)	Area in Wales (%)
1	0.08	0.25
2	18.73	6.38
3a	25.78	9.58

This section has summarised the State of the Park.

The following sections identify the key outcomes sought during the lifetime of this Plan and some of the ways in which the National Park Authority and partners can work together to address the issues.

An annex identifies some of the measures which may be used to assess progress.



Policy and Action



4 Conservation: policy and action

Conserving and enhancing natural beauty and wildlife.

Key outcomes for 2030:

- Conserve and enhance landscape and seascape quality
- Preserve distant, uninterrupted views and open horizons
- Promote ecosystem recovery at scale and improve the state of wildlife on land and in the marine environment (as a milestone to clear recovery by 2050)
- Achieve favourable conservation status on high nature value sites.
- Maintain and enhance species for which Pembrokeshire is uniquely important
- Increase the connectivity of the landscape for wildlife
- Reduce the impact of light pollution on wildlife
- Conserve earth heritage
- Conserve and improve soil health and enhance natural carbon stores
- Address the impacts of invasive species and plant pathogens
- Reduce pollution from phosphates, nitrates and ammonia
- Reduce plastics and microplastics in the environment
- Support a wider range of people to take action for nature



Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
L1/A	Protect the important visual horizons of the National Park from development, including energy generation and major development.	Business Developers Freeport partners Neighbouring local authorities Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welsh Government
L1/B	Ensure development does not have unacceptable adverse landscape and seascape impacts and delivers high quality design.	Agents Business Developers Land managers, including farmers Neighbouring authorities Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welsh Government
L1/C	Manage the impacts of permitted development rights for camping and caravan sites.	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Exempted organisations Existing operators Land managers Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council (Planning, Highways, Public Protection services) Visit Pembrokeshire Welsh Government
L1/D	Reduce the visual impact of existing infrastructure, e.g. telecommunications and power distribution networks, for example by undergrounding for cables or sharing towers.	Business Industry Land managers Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority The Crown Estate Western Power Distribution / National Grid

Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
L1/E	Manage litter, including seaborne litter, and raise awareness of its impacts.	Communities Keep Wales Tidy Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council Visitors

Policy E1: Conserve and enhance biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E1/A	Deliver practical conservation land management projects to deliver biodiversity benefits.	Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust Buglife Farming Connect Plantlife Bumblebee Conservation Trust Farmers' Union of Wales Land managers National Farmers' Union of England and Wales National Trust Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Grazing Network Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network Pembrokeshire Young Farmers Club Public Services Board Tirweddau Cymru / Landscapes Wales Welsh Government Wildlife Trust South and West Wales Woodland Trust

Policy E1: Conserve and enhance biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E1/B	Support farmers, especially the dairying sector, to reduce impacts on soil and water through regenerative practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming Connect Farmers' Union of Wales Land managers National Farmers' Union of England and Wales National Trust Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Grazing Network Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network Pembrokeshire Young Farmers Club Welsh Government
E1/C	Implement specific projects to conserve species for which Pembrokeshire is uniquely important (e.g. Southern damselfly, a feature of the Preseli Special Area of Conservation) and local places for nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups Land managers Natur am Byth! Project partners Natural Resources Wales Plantlife Volunteers
E1/D	Manage invasive non-native and /or harmful species and pathogens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglers Boatowners Communities Land managers National Trust Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Volunteers

Policy E1: Conserve and enhance biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E1/E	Manage and mitigate wildfire risks through appropriate public engagement, best practice awareness and practical support.	Commons graziers Communities Land managers Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group Visitors Wales Wildfire Charter
E1/F	Ensure planning applications deliver net benefit for biodiversity.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Planning agents and applicants
E1/G	Directly manage sites of actual or potential nature value, through purchase or lease, where this is a cost-effective conservation management option.	National Trust Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Wildlife Trust South and West Wales Woodland Trust
E1/H	Reduce wildlife crime and take appropriate action if it occurs.	Communities Dyfed-Powys Police Land managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Natural Resources Wales Volunteers

Policy E1: Conserve and enhance biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E1/I	Prevent and remediate damage to conservation features of designated sites.	Land managers Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
E1/J	Support locally-produced, environmentally sound and socially responsible food.	Land managers Communities Hospitality businesses Visitors
E1/K	Resist proposals which have a likely significant adverse effect (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on the UK National Site Network, unless they satisfy the legal tests within the Habitats Regulations.	Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
E1/L	Develop nature recovery projects which also help increase range of people able to participate in these activities.	Pathways Project Natur am Byth!

Policy E2: Conserve and enhance marine biodiversity.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E2/A	Deliver the management schemes for the marine UK National Site Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities Fishers Sky Ocean Rescue partners Swansea University Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Pembrokeshire College Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation: Relevant Authorities Groups World Wide Fund for Nature
E2/B	Manage bait-digging and species collection in the intertidal zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglers Businesses Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Port of Milford Haven
E2/C	Improve the environmental state of the Milford Haven Waterway e.g. with regard to water quality standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Land managers Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group Natural Resources Wales Nutrient Management Board Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authority Group Port of Milford Haven Volunteers

Policy E2: Conserve and enhance marine biodiversity.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E2/D	Restore seagrass and saltmarsh habitats.	Communities Fishers Sky Ocean Rescue partners Swansea University Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation: Relevant Authorities Group World Wide Fund for Nature
E2/E	Deliver the management objectives of the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone.	Boatowners Natural Resources Wales Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group
E2/F	Reduce lighting impacts on vulnerable species.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership Port of Milford Haven Wildlife Trust South and West Wales

Policy E2: Conserve and enhance marine biodiversity.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
E2/G	Manage recreational disturbance to wildlife e.g. through codes of conduct, restrictions, awareness-raising and legal enforcement.	Ministry of Defence National Trust Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group Visitors Volunteers
E2/H	Maintain and implement marine contingency planning and response procedures.	West Wales Standing Environment Group
E2/I	Reduce plastics and microplastics in the environment at source.	Communities Businesses Keep Wales Tidy Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Visitors Welsh Government
E2/J	Manage Wales' Marine Protected Area Network and wider coastal and marine environment sustainably.	Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership

Policy L2: Protect and enhance dark night skies.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
L2/A	Reduce the light impacts of community, business and industrial premises.	Businesses Householders Industry Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council <i>Prosiect Nos</i> partners The National Trust
L2/B	Adopt supplementary planning guidance on lighting for Pembrokeshire.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council
L2/C	Monitor planning approvals involving lighting schemes.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council

Policy L3: Protect and enhance earth heritage.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
L3/A	Conserve and enhance Geological Conservation Review sites and Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites.	Land managers Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Policy L4: Protect and enhance natural soundscapes.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
L4/A	Contribute to the delivery of the Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales 2023-2028.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council Ministry of Defence
L4/B	Share noise monitoring data between relevant authorities.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council

5 Connection: policy and action

Conserving and enhancing cultural heritage, including the Welsh language.

Promoting enjoyment and understanding of the National Park

Key outcomes for 2030:

- Conserve and enhance landscapes of particular historic interest, Conservation Areas, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings
- Enable appropriate public access to heritage assets
- Promote the Welsh language and local dialects, and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape
- Provide outdoor learning opportunities, in particular for children
- Provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities for a full cross-section of society, and increase the frequency of people's participation
- Manage potential / actual recreational pressures such as those arising from unauthorised camping and congestion
- Improve water quality at designated bathing beaches
- Promote water safety
- Promote the use of Welsh in tourist businesses
- Eliminate environmental harm from storm overflow sewage discharges



Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of historic interest, Conservation Areas, monuments, buildings of interest, and their settings.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
H1/A	Enhance public awareness and enjoyment of historic landscapes, buildings and monuments.	Community groups, including ethnic and marginalised groups Faith groups Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology Heritage Guardians Land managers National Trust Schools Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Volunteers
H1/B	Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings e.g. using the planning pre-application service.	Business Communities Historic asset owners / managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
H1/C	Manage development in Conservation Areas in accordance with Conservation Management Plans, Article 4 requirements; designate new Areas as appropriate.	Business Communities Historic asset owners / managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
H1/D	Engage and support communities and volunteers in heritage monitoring and conservation.	Cadw (the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service) Community groups Dyfed-Powys Police Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Heneb Heritage Guardians Land managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Volunteers
H1/E	Stabilise and enhance monuments in unfavourable condition; record sites at risk of coastal erosion.	Cadw Community groups Heneb Land managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales Universities Volunteers

Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of historic interest, Conservation Areas, monuments, buildings of interest, and their settings.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
H1/F	Conserve and enhance field boundaries, with a particular emphasis on boundaries in registered historic landscapes and / or of relevance to connectivity for biodiversity.	Land managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership Welsh Government
H1/G	Implement Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's <i>Local Development Plan 2</i> heritage policies and associated guidance (including review of Tree Preservation Orders).	Cadw Heneb Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
H1/H	Support research and policy affecting the National Park's historic environment.	Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welsh Government e.g. Historic Environment Working Groups.
H1/I	Reduce heritage crime and take appropriate action if it occurs.	Dyfed-Powys Police Heritage Watch partners
H1/J	Celebrate and conserve local distinctiveness in the built environment.	Building owners Community groups Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park National Trust Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council Volunteers
H1/K	Protect and promote place names, e.g. field names.	Cadw Community groups Heneb Landowners / managers (e.g. Ministry of Defence, National Trust) National Library of Wales Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner University of Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales Schools Volunteers Welsh Place-Name Society

Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects, and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
H2/A	Contribute to the target ²¹ for the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh to reach a million by 2050.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Community groups Cultural venues Learn Welsh Pembrokeshire – Dysgu Cymraeg Sir Benfro Menter Iaith Sir Benfro Merched y Wawr Mudiad Meithrin Office for National Statistics Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner Pembrokeshire College Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Young Farmers Club Relevant public bodies Schools Urdd Gobaith Cymru (e.g. Pentre Ifan) Visit Pembrokeshire
H2/B	Share and celebrate landscape, cultural heritage, natural history and the arts with more diverse audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadw Community groups, including ethnic and marginalised groups Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales Faith groups Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Heneb Land managers Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Pride Span Arts PLANED Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales Schools Volunteers Welsh Refugee Council

²¹Link to Welsh Government's document "Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026"
<https://www.gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-our-plan-2021-2026>

Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects, and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
H2/C	Implement Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's <i>Local Development Plan 2</i> heritage policies, e.g. Policy 13 Development in Welsh Language-Sensitive Areas.	Cadw Communities Heneb Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
H2/D	Provide guidance on the sympathetic enjoyment of monuments considered sacred and their settings.	Cadw Heneb Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority User groups Welsh Government e.g. Historic Environment Working Groups

Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
W1/A	Remove barriers to outdoor recreation and wellbeing opportunities and promote opportunities to more diverse audiences, e.g. people with visible or hidden disabilities, children and young families from deprived areas.	Beach Wheelchair Scheme hosts Community and support groups (e.g. MIND, St David's Care in the Community, Point Youth Centre) Destination Management Plan partners Experiences for All partners Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Future Works Get Outdoors Let's Walk Pembrokeshire Partnership National Parks UK Open to All partnership and stakeholders Outdoor Schools Pathways Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Pembrokeshire County Council Public Health Wales Roots to Recovery partners Royal National Lifeboat Institution Harbour authorities Visit Pembrokeshire Volunteers Youth Committee Youth Rangers

Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
W1/B	Deliver an Accessible Coast strategy, offering good access for people with specific needs, e.g. access for wheelchair users, changing places and toilets at key locations.	Harbour authorities National Trust Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum Royal National Lifeboat Institution User groups
W1/C	Manage recreational pressures and site and community capacity issues e.g. those arising from unauthorised camping or congestion ²² .	Harbour authorities National Trust Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group Visitors
W1/D	Manage the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail, part of the Wales Coast Path, to provide a diversity of experiences, and promote it to new audiences.	Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Land managers National Trust Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Volunteers
W1/E	Deliver the <i>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028</i> .	Communities Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Access Forum User groups Volunteers

²²Sites include Abereddidi, Abermawr, Barafundle and Stackpole Quay, Cwm yr Eglwys, Freshwater East, Freshwater West, Martin's Haven, Porthgain, Pwllgwaelod, St Justinian, Strumble and Whitesands.

Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
W1/F	Improve water quality at designated bathing waters achieving less than “Excellent” status.	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Natural Resources Wales
W1/G	Manage the Milford Haven Waterway in line with recreation management objectives and relevant byelaws.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Port of Milford Haven
W1/H	Support dog owners / walkers and dogs to enjoy the Park without risk to themselves or to other visitors, farm animals or wildlife.	Land managers National Trust Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority User groups

Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
W1/I	Promote water safety initiatives, e.g. the Respect the Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbour authorities National Trust Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum Port of Milford Haven Royal National Lifeboat Institution User groups
W1/J	Work with businesses to increase their use of Welsh in a fun, engaging and accessible way for residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Learn Welsh Pembrokeshire - Dysgu Cymraeg Sir Benfro Visit Pembrokeshire
N4/B	Eliminate environmental harm from storm overflow sewage discharges, including working within the framework of the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan for Cleddau and Pembrokeshire Rivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government

Policy W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning, well-being and personal development experiences for all.

Reference	Example action	Key partners
W2/A	Deliver active outdoor, environmental, heritage and arts-based recreation and learning to young people and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First 1000 Days project partners Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust Pembrokeshire College Public Services Board Schools South Hook LNG Terminal Co Ltd Youth Committee
W2/B	Deliver nature based social prescribing, e.g. walking programmes, mental health initiatives, and supporting people identified as facing barriers to the National Park (identified in the Experience for All report).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People aged 65+ Households living in poverty Children under 6 16-24 year olds People from the global majority People experiencing poor health and wellbeing People with a disability
W2/C	Offer volunteering / citizen science and formal training opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park National Trust Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire College Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation partners Volunteers

6 Climate and natural resources: policy and action

Managing natural resources sustainably

Key outcomes for 2030:

- Halve carbon emissions within the National Park area (a milestone to the Race to Zero target of achieving carbon-neutrality in the National Park area by 2050)
- Proactively respond to climate change impacts on e.g. coastal communities, road and infrastructure, rights of way
- Conserve and improve soil health and enhance natural carbon stores (including stores in marine and coastal environments)
- Reduce pollution from phosphates, nitrates and ammonia
- Improve water quality at designated bathing beaches
- Eliminate environmental harm from storm overflow sewage discharges



Policy N1: Contribute to a carbon-neutral Wales

Reference	Example action	Key partners
N1/A	Deliver <i>Net Zero Wales</i> : targets include a carbon-neutral public sector by 2030 and a carbon-neutral National Park by 2048 (the <i>Race to Zero</i>) - requiring continued collaboration with partners to deliver carbon-neutral or low carbon options for energy, development, travel, food, to achieve a just transition to net zero and a circular economy.	Businesses Celtic Freeport partners Communities Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Industry Land managers Public Services Board Race to Zero partners UK National Parks Climate and Energy Group Visitors Welsh Government
N1/B	Deliver Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Local Development Plan 2 policies and guidance, in accordance with the energy hierarchy, sustainable design drainage and waste.	Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Public Services Board
N1/C	Support farm businesses to reduce carbon through offsetting and reduction measures.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Land managers
N1/D	Continue to use the Sustainable Development Fund to support community low carbon projects.	Business Communities Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
N1/E (also SE1/G)	Deliver accessible and affordable public transport, active travel and low-carbon vehicle initiatives.	Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales National Trust Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership Residents UK National Parks Partnership South Wales Industrial Cluster Visit Pembrokeshire Visitors

Policy N2: Adapt to climate change		
Reference	Example action	Key partners
N2/A	Deliver Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's <i>Local Development Plan 2</i> policies and guidance, including flooding and coastal inundation, development in coastal change management areas, relocation of development affected by coastal change.	Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Public Services Board
N2/B	Manage coastal adaptation within the context of the two Shoreline Management Plans and Local Development Plan 2 which cover the coast of Pembrokeshire.	Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welsh Government
N2/C	Implement the Pembrokeshire Climate Adaptation Strategy 2022.	Public Services Board partners
Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage		
Reference	Example action	Key partners
N3/A	Conserve and enhance soils (supporting the National Peatland Action Programme), protect wetlands, and semi-natural habitats and trees in the landscape conserved and enhanced.	Commons Resilience partners Land managers Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government
N3/B	Implement Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's <i>Local Development Plan 2</i> policies and guidance in relation to soil, water, air and earth heritage.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Policy N4: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore natural watercourses

Reference	Example action	Key partners
N4/A	Improve the quality of water bodies in the National Park classed as poor or moderate, within the context of the <i>Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021 - 2027</i>	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Businesses Communities Cwm Arian Renewable Energy Land managers Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group Natural Resources Wales Nutrient Management Board Nyfer am Byth Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authority Group Port of Milford Haven The Cleddau Project Volunteers
N4/B	Eliminate environmental harm from storm overflow sewage discharges, including working within the framework of the <i>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan for Cleddau and Pembrokeshire Rivers</i>	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Natural Resources Wales Welsh Government
N4/C	Manage flood risk, within the context of the <i>Flood Risk Management Plan (South West Wales) 2023-2029</i> .	Pembrokeshire County Council Property owners Natural Resources Wales

Policy N5: Protect air quality

Reference	Example action	Key partners
N5/A	Reduce / intercept reactive nitrogen emissions, with a focus on potentially-affected nature conservation sites.	Land managers Natural Resources Wales
N5/B	Achieve Welsh national air quality targets proposed in The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill.	Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welsh Government

7 Communities: policy and action

Landscapes for lives and livelihoods

Key outcomes for 2030:

- Provide an appropriate range of homes to support local communities
- Support an appropriate range of fair work opportunities
- Adapt to the needs of an aging population
- Become a model of regenerative tourism
- Support land managers to deliver regenerative agriculture
- Maintain and extend sustainable transport and active travel options
- Support viability and accessibility of local community services
- Reduce poverty



Policy SE1: Foster socio-economic well-being of National Park communities (in pursuit of National Park purposes).

Reference	Example action	Key partners
SE1/A	Deliver appropriate homes for local communities through the planning system and joint working. Apply local lettings policies applied on rural exceptions sites where appropriate and where evidence demonstrates they support delivery against desired outcomes.	Agents Business Community Land Trusts Community, Town and City Councils Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Developers Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Householders Housing Authorities Industry Ministry of Defence Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council Registered Social Landlords
SE1/B	Develop an evidence base on types and needs of homes (e.g. relationship with Welsh language, sharing data on second / holiday homes, considering options regarding local shared ownership).	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council
SE1/C	Apply Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's <i>Local Development Plan 2</i> policy when determining planning applications; policy covers for example major development, defence sites, lighting, amenity, employment (fair work), housing allocations, housing windfall sites and exceptional land releases for affordable housing.	Agents Business Community Land Trusts Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales Developers Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Householders Housing Authorities Industry Ministry of Defence Natural Resources Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council PLANED Welsh Government

Reference	Example action	Key partners
SE1/D	Support appropriate controls and promote a regenerative tourism offer.	Business Communities Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council Visit Pembrokeshire Visitors
SE1/E	Support sustainable local supply chains.	Business Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council
SE1/F	Deliver viable and accessible community services, e.g. shops, schools, play facilities and community halls.	Business Hywel Dda University Health Board Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire County Council PLANED Voluntary groups
SE1/G (also N1/E)	Deliver accessible and affordable public transport, active travel and low-carbon vehicle initiatives.	Corporate Joint Committee for South-West Wales National Trust Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership Residents UK National Parks Partnership South Wales Industrial Cluster Visit Pembrokeshire Visitors

Next steps

Following public consultation on this draft Partnership Plan, all comments will be considered and any necessary amendments proposed. These will be considered by the National Park Authority towards the close of 2024 and a final Partnership Plan approved for 2025-2029.

The National Park Authority will work with partners to implement and monitor the approved Partnership Plan. Partners will be encouraged to adopt the Plan, sign up to the impacts relevant to them, and to share and celebrate those contributions.

We will work with partners to implement recommendations of the impact assessments, for example in relation to promotion of the Welsh language and equalities.

The intention is for conversation and engagement to be ongoing throughout the Partnership Plan delivery period.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Partnership Plan please contact:

Strategic Policy Team
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Llanion Park
Llanion
Pembroke Dock
SA72 6DY

Phone: 01646 624800
parkplan@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk
cynllunyparc@arfordirpenfro.org.uk



Parc Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park

Annex 1 – Impact monitoring

Conservation	
Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.	
<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report indicators 1, 2, 6, 8.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Progress with implementation of Article 4 options (ref. National Park Authority consultation paper May 2024).	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Number of undergrounding projects / prior notifications.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Policy E1: Conserve and enhance biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale.	
<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
State of Wildlife in Pembrokeshire reporting.	Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership
Conservation Land Management and Heritage annual report.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Sustainable Farm Scheme metrics.	Welsh Government
Project outputs / annual reporting.	Nutrient Management Board
Four Rivers for LIFE project outputs.	Natural Resources Wales
Stitch in Time project outputs.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Incidence of wildfires.	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Firebreak mapping.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Number of planning applications approved.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Conservation

Policy E2: Conserve and enhance marine biodiversity.

<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation outputs and feature condition.	Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authorities
Management plan and feature objectives reporting.	Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group, Natural Resources Wales
Commercial licensing.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Water Framework Directive classification.	Natural Resources Wales

Policy L2: Protect and enhance dark night skies.

<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
Prosiect Nos and Dark Skies project outputs.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Lighting Supplementary Planning Guidance.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Enforcement action.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Conservation

Policy L3: Protect and enhance earth heritage.

Example measures

Manager

Geological Conservation Review site status.

Natural Resources Wales

Policy L4: Protect and enhance natural soundscapes.

Example measures

Manager

Progress on Soundscapes Plan for Wales.

Welsh Government

Conservation Land Management and Heritage report.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Connection

Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of historic interest, Conservation Areas, monuments, buildings of interest, and their settings.

<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
Pre-applications relating to Listed Buildings.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Conservation Areas.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Scheduled Monument survey.	Cadw Welsh Government
Conservation Land Management and Heritage report.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects, and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.

<i>Example measures</i>	<i>Manager</i>
Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report indicator 5.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Number and distribution of Welsh speakers.	Office for National Statistics

Connection

Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Example measures

Manager

Length of network open and meeting quality standards.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Bathing Water Quality.

Natural Resources Wales

Policy W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning and personal development experiences for all.

Example measures

Manager

Inclusion project outputs.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Volunteering numbers.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Climate and natural resources

Policy N1: Contribute to a carbon-neutral Wales.

Example measures

Manager

Net Zero monitoring.

Welsh Government and relevant public bodies

Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report indicators e.g. 10, 12, 13, 14.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Sustainable Development Fund metrics.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Policy N2: Adapt to climate change.

Example measures

Manager

Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report indicator 15 and Coastal Risk Management Areas.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Collaboration project metrics.

Public Services Board

Climate and natural resources

Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage.

Example measures

Manager

Area of peaty soils.

Welsh Government

Policy N4: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore natural watercourses.

Example measures

Manager

Water body classification.

Natural Resources Wales

Sewage overflow discharges, duration.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Policy N5: Protect air quality.

Example measures

Manager

Designated sites monitoring.

Natural Resources Wales

Air quality monitoring.

Pembrokeshire County Council

Communities

Policy SE1: Foster socio-economic well-being of National Park communities (in pursuit of National Park purposes).

Example measures

Manager

Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report e.g. indicators 18, 23, 24, 28, 31.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Progress with implementation of Article 4 options for caravans and camping (ref. National Park Authority consultation paper May 2024).

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority