

**REPORT OF THE BIODIVERSITY OFFICER**

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**SUBJECT: CONSERVATION REPORT 2018 – 2019**

1. The attached report set out the outcomes achieved for this National Park through our conservation work during the financial year 2018-2019.
2. The report sets out:
  - The land management monitoring results for 2018 to 2019.
  - Specific examples of achievements under the 'Conserving the Park' scheme
  - Progress made on the management of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority owned sites
  - A report on partnership projects and collaboration
  - *Stitch in Time* progress
  - Species monitoring results and interpretation
3. The report illustrates the substantial amount of work the Authority undertakes across a range of activities. The main contributors internally are the officers in Park Direction, the Warden Teams and the Ranger Service.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Members are requested to RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Report.**

*(For further information contact Sarah Mellor on extension 4829)*



# Conservation Report 2018 to 2019



**Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park Authority**

**Operational Review Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**



## **Contents**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Conservation Land Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Collaboration and Joint Projects</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Species Monitoring</b>	<b>14</b>
	Appendix 1 - Conservation Land Management Sites – Monitoring Methodology	<b>16</b>
	Appendix 2 ‘Conserving the Park’ Scheme	<b>19</b>

## 1. Conservation Land Management

1. As part of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's (PCNPA) land management programme, conservation work is carried out on over one hundred sites aimed at benefitting priority habitats and species within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

	2017/18	2018/19
Conservation work carried out on land aimed at benefitting priority species (hectares)	4320 (7% of National Park)	4323 (7% of National Park)
Property owned or leased by PCNPA managed for biodiversity (hectares)	463	463
Land managed for biodiversity in partnership with private landowners (hectares)	1107	1110
Access land where PCNPA supports common management partnerships (hectares)	2750	2750

This is achieved through the management of the PCNPA's owned or leased estate and also through working in partnership with private landowners with our 'Conserving the Park' scheme.

2. In addition, we engage in specific projects, either through direct delivery or as part of a partnership. At any one time we may have a number of live projects aimed at engaging landowners in a particular aspect of land management, for example control of non-native invasive species through the 'Stitch in Time' project.
3. PCNPA's conservation work covers a diverse range of activities and is normally individually tailored to sites. The practical elements of our conservation work are carried out in partnership with the Warden and Ranger teams, including volunteers.

Typical activities include:

- Ecological survey and monitoring.
- Vegetation management e.g. burning and cutting.
- Facilitation of conservation grazing.
- Management agreements with landowners.
- Capital projects associated with land management such as fencing, gates and water supply.
- Woodland management.
- Advice on conservation management and grant schemes including agri-environment schemes and burning plans.
- Practical assistance through the Warden and Ranger teams (for example assistance with tasks such as burning, cutting, fencing and scrub management).

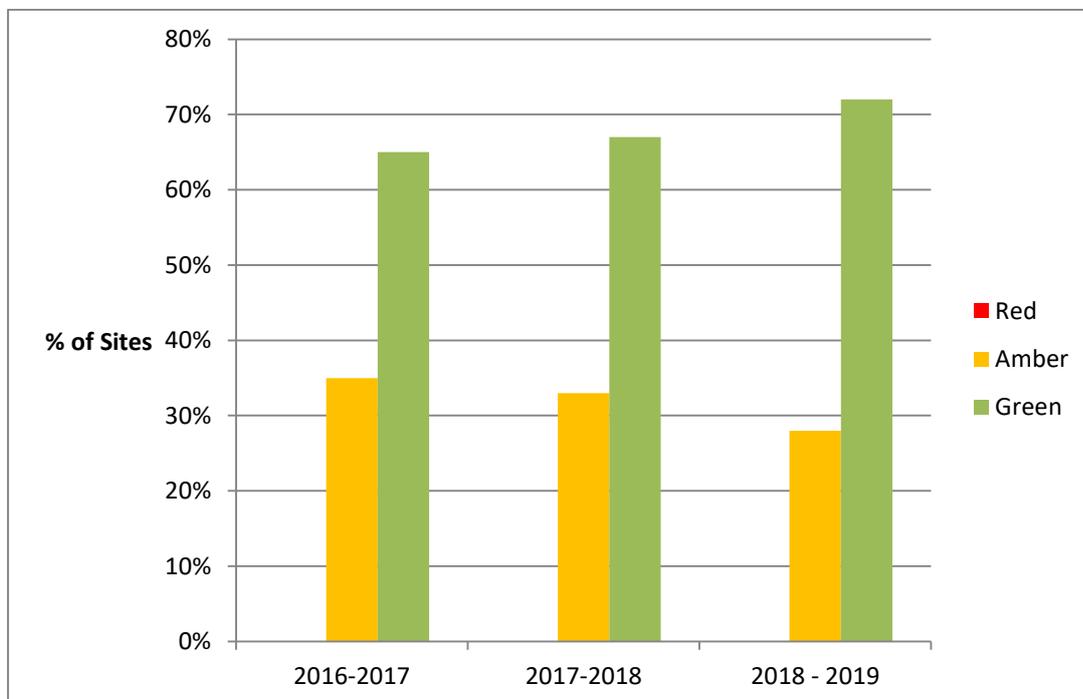
- Feedback and on-going discussion with landowners regarding progress and challenges.

### 1.1 Active Work Programme Monitoring Results

- The monitoring scheme covers sites under the Conserving the Park scheme as well as land owned by the Authority.
- Conservation sites in the active work programme are subject to formal audit visits which are written up and recorded on file. During formal visits, sites are assigned a Red, Amber or Green category<sup>1</sup>.

	2017/18 Monitoring Period	2018/19 Monitoring Period
% of sites on the conservation work programme receiving a formal monitoring visit and assessment	60%	55%

- All other sites are visited informally throughout the year to discuss particular issues with landowners, to assess grazing livestock and their impacts, etc.
- The graph below shows the monitoring results for 2018-19. Results from previous years are included for comparative purposes.



<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 1 for a description of the monitoring method

8. Currently all sites are assigned an amber or green category and are in line with their conservation management plan.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Conservation Sites - % in line with the Management Plan	100	100	100

9. This indicates that sites on both PCNPA-owned land and on land managed in partnership with private landowners continue to be managed in line with nature conservation objectives.

10. There has been a small increase in the sites assigned to a green category mainly reflecting PCNPA's sites at Skrinkle and Nab Head being assigned a green category. These sites have been the subject of long term conservation plans including vegetation management and are now classed as restored. Current management is now focussed on maintaining conservation gains.

## 1.2 Conserving the Park

New Agreements	2017/18	2018/19	Comment
# new agreements made through conserving the Park	7	2	Management agreement budget is now fully allocated
Hectares new agreements cover	55	6	
Hectares – New pollinator habitat that has been created	38	6	

### Case Study: Ecological Connectivity

It is important that our management agreements contribute to ecological connectivity. Sometimes agreements connect directly with others signed up to the Conserving the Park scheme or even to land owned and managed by PCNPA.

For example, a biodiverse parcel of land has recently been signed up which connects with the PCNPA's estate in Manorbier. Some of our land here supports the only known population of Purple Broomrape in Wales. It is hoped that this rare plant might appear on the new agreement land once the right conditions are created.



### Case Study: Habitat Restoration



Monitoring visits to Blaencleddau Farm near Mynachlogddu are showing annual progress in the condition of the hay meadows there. Some fields which were previously sheep-grazed all year round are now grazed only in autumn and winter, then allowed to grow for hay the rest of the year. The switch in management has allowed a wonderful array of plants to appear, which increases in variety and abundance with each year that passes. The owners have been particularly delighted to see the appearance of lots of orchids and large patches of white whorled caraway flowers, a plant which has seen dramatic decline elsewhere across the UK due to land drainage.

Half the farm is signed up to a management agreement with PCNPA, and the other half to Natural Resources Wales, meaning that the whole farm is now farmed in a way which enhances its wildlife value. The farm also lies adjacent to a Special Area of Conservation and therefore acts as an important ecological buffer.

*Heath spotted orchid*

### 1.3 Management of Common Land

11. A commons 'Successional Health Check' Report was carried out on Pembrokeshire Commons, funded by Arwain Sir Penfro. Common land covers an area of 5,310ha Commons are a significant resource for nature conservation with 72% designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with 61% also being designated as Special Areas for Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. They are the largest areas of both dry and wet heath in the County as well as providing the largest deposits of carbon in the form of peat in Pembrokeshire.
12. The report highlights concerns over declining utilisation of common land for grazing by the agricultural sector citing successional issues, barriers to practical management, small common size and Bovine TB as just some of the factors driving a decline in active management.
13. The National Park Authority is actively involved in supporting the management of common land on around half the total area of common land resource. This includes direct management (e.g. at Castleblythe and Frenni Fawr), to working with grazier management committees and responding to queries and requests for assistance (Sutton Common).

### 1.3 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Owned Sites

Location	Example Activities or Impact 2018/19
<b>Nab Head</b>	<i>This site has been moved from amber to green. Grazing was re-introduced to this site in 2013. A programme of annual grazing and scrub control has transformed the structure of the vegetation on this site from rank grassland to a more species-rich mosaic of scrub, coastal grassland and coastal heath.</i>
<b>Pengegin</b>	<i>Ancient Woodland Restoration is on-going. Timber extraction is complete and volunteers have now planted half the site with native species such as oak, birch and hazel.</i>
<b>Llanion Meadow</b>	<i>The meadow at Llanion showed a notable improvement in species richness this year. Of particular note was a record of 3 Southern Marsh Orchids – a first for the site.</i>

#### Case Study: Bee Friendly National Park

In 2018 PCNPA became the first National Park in Wales to be awarded Bee Friendly Status by the Welsh Government. Bee Friendly is an initiative run by the Welsh Government to widen participation in the delivery of the Wales Pollinator Action Plan. The award recognises the significant efforts of the Authority to manage our owned estate in a way that is of benefit to pollinators in particular our work on species-rich meadow creation at Llanion HQ as well as other sites such as St. Davids Airfield, Carew Castle and Skrinkle Haven.



**Caru Gwenyn  
Bee Friendly**

### 1.4 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Projects

#### Stitch in Time Project

- Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) are a key driver of biodiversity loss globally and locally. The Stitch in Time project pilots top-down catchment control of three target INNS, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan balsam and *Rhododendron ponticum*. The project currently focusses on the Cwm Gwaun catchment and Afon Clydach (a sub catchment of the Nevern) in North Pembrokeshire.

15. Best practice control is coordinated on the ground using volunteers, contractors and staff time for strategic use of resources in line with the catchment rationale of top down progression. Engagement with landowners and awareness raising amongst key stake holders is a key driver of the project highlighting partnership working opportunities within or outside the pilot catchments and across organisations.

### Volunteer Days

	2017/18	2018/19
# Stitch in Time -Volunteer Days	109.89	123

### Community Groups Engaged With

Group	Activities carried out in 2018/19
Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	Practical control throughout both the Gwaun and Clydach. In 2015 this group adopted a key set of tributaries which has seen a significant reduction in balsam. During 2019 the monitoring and maintenance of this site will continue by the Friends who have also worked on Rhododendron control, replanting native trees in Lower town Fishguard and clearing winter Japanese knotweed growth in Trecwn.
Newport Paths Group	Have been instrumental in surveying for balsam the survey, and initial landowner engagement leading to the practical control of Himalayan balsam in the Clydach Valley a sub catchment of the Nevern. A monthly work party sweep will continue during 2019 in tandem with PCNPA staff and contractor effort.
PCNPA North voluntary wardens	Another key group working alongside PCNPA North Ranger and the INNS Coordinator on sites throughout the Clydach and Gwaun, from Himalayan balsam pulling, Rhododendron control, knotweed stem clearance and re-planting.
Pembrokeshire College	Environmental conservation course work alongside their tutors and INNS Coordinator at suitable sites in the Clydach and Llwyngwair Manor where brush cutter skills can be used.
Valero	Expressed interest to work on a South area balsam site which was facilitated and lead by the INNS co-ordinator.
Cwm Gwaun Community Council	Were visited during the 2018 season to provide a project update. One community councillor was trained in the use of pesticides.
Llais Llanychaer	As a group Llais Llanychaer have worked on areas of balsam along the Afon Gwaun close to Llanychaer and individuals work with and volunteer with the project independently of Llais Llanychaer, e.g. to mark verge knotweed to prevent early cutting. The chairperson received training in pesticides and a majority of members are landowners.

Greening Fishguard and Goodwick group	The main driver for addressing the INNS along the public footpaths at lower town Fishguard. This group's practical involvement is limited; opportunities will be offered during 2019.
PCNPA Youth Rangers	Assisted with practical control in the Gwaun and Clydach during the summer months such as Himalayan balsam control at Garn woods in the Gwaun Valley.
PCNPA Pathways group	Another key group working in the Gwaun, Clydach and Lower Town Fishguard with Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and <i>Rhododendron</i> .
Workways	Expressed interest in working with balsam in or near Haverfordwest. The project provided them with kit and a day's best practice training, balsam bashing along the Cleddau Mill path, working with Pembrokeshire County Council's Regeneration Officer.

### Invasive Species removed at source

	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Hectares – Invasive Species removed at source/ injected</b>	43.95	49.35

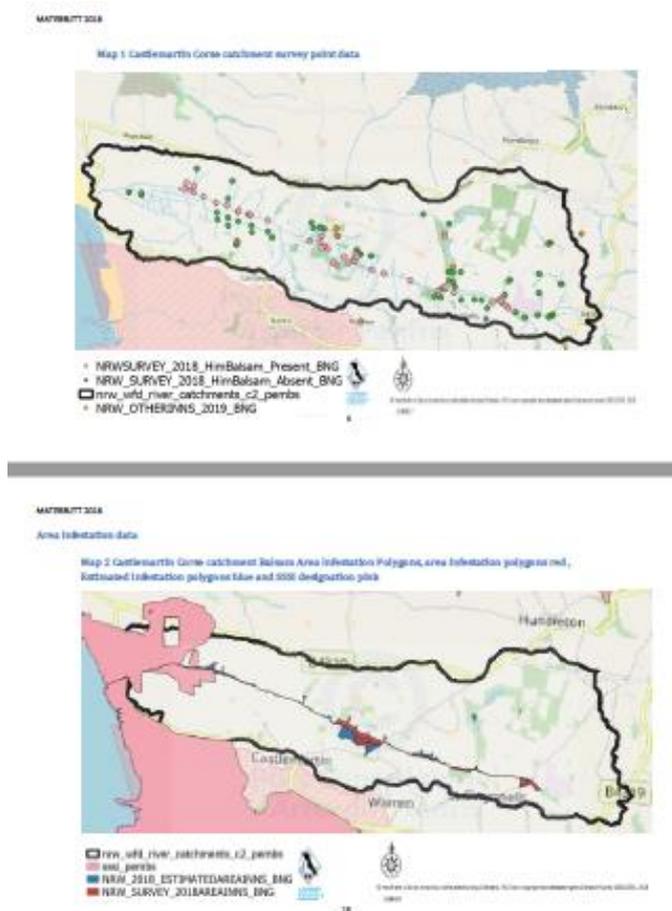
### Case Study

#### Castlemartin Corse INNS Survey and Report

Natural Resources Wales commissioned the Stitch in Time project to carry out a survey of the Castlemartin Corse / Gupton catchment for INNS during 2018 following concerns of possible future impacts on the Castlemartin Corse SSSI which is designated for important wetland habitats.

The survey identified that Himalayan balsam was widespread through the catchment and present only several hundred metres away from the SSSI.

A partnership discussion followed in February 2019 with a report summary presented to Natural Resources Wales and the National



Trust by PCNPA, sharing the learning from the Stitch in Time project.

The Stitch in Time project will now begin implementing strategic control at the catchment source in partnership with Natural Resources Wales over the next three years as part of our Sustainable Stitch in Time Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being in Wales bid.

### Case Study

#### Allt Fach, Lower Town Fishguard

In an agreement with the landowner and Pembrokeshire County Council an accessible area of Allt Fach woods was targeted for clearance due to harbouring invasive rhododendron and cherry laurel.

When established, stands of Rhododendron and cherry laurel create a build of toxic leaf litter, reduce light levels, compete for space and nutrients through alleopathy (chemically competing) with other plants, monopolising pollinators, altering soil health, and in terms of *Rhododendron*, being the principle carrier / sporulating host of *Phytophthora kernoviae* and *P. ramorum*. Ancient woodlands can be choked of light and experience reduced diversity of native understory plants, affecting habitat quality for not too distant populations of dormouse.



The cutting, treating and processing of the *Rhododendron* and laurel was completed and The woodland floor is now experiencing light it has not seen for possibly a decade. This was followed up with the planting of 500 native trees by the Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and PCNPA project Pathways volunteer groups.

The work at Allt Fach is very visible from a popular walking route and the project has received some lovely feedback.

“As a local resident, I just wanted to thank you and your team for the great work you have done along the valley of the River Gwaun in Lower Town, Fishguard.....I thoroughly enjoy looking at the new landscape on my regular dog walks and I look forward to its continued improvement with the maturing of the recently planted native species.”

### Partnership working and raising awareness

	<b>Activities carried out in 2018/19</b>
Natural Resources Wales	Partnership working: Contributions of staff time and funds for INNS work within or in proximity to SSSI in the Gwaun catchment such as <i>Rhododendron</i> control. Advice regarding stabilising Japanese knotweed bank on Gwaun tributary leading to Coed Gelli. Himalayan balsam: survey and report.
Pembrokeshire County Council	Partnership working: Lower Town Fishguard contribution of funds to undertake balsam work, access and control permitted of <i>Rhododendron</i> in Lower Town Fishguard paths. Permission to erect signage on road verges in the Gwaun to prevent cutting of Japanese knotweed. Permission to undertake small scale stream work to prevent rhizome entering water.
Valley Management	Partnership working: Access gained to carry out <i>Rhododendron</i> and Japanese knotweed control in the north of Trecwn valley including the green wedge / burning ground. Valley Management Services contribute to the re-treatment of Japanese knotweed each season and take up full cost post 2019.
Woodland Trust	Partnership working: Permission to undertake INNS control at Coed Cilgelynin adjacent to Esgryn Bottom, 2019.
Local Agricultural show	Stitch in Time awareness material and INNS Coordinator presence with the National Park stand at Fishguard show 2017, 2018 and planned for 2019.

## 2. Collaboration and Joint Projects

Partnership	2018/19 Activities
<b>Bat Conservation Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration on the Deallt Ecosystemau Citizen Science Project. (See Case Study.)</li> </ul>
<b>Pembrokeshire Grazing Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently active on 362ha across 45 sites matching demand for conservation grazing with appropriate animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Plan Part 1 was produced and signed off by members. It can be accessed here (insert link)</li> <li>• Funding for the Nature Partnership beyond March 2019 is now secured as part of an all Wales collaboration through the Welsh Governments Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being in Wales fund.</li> </ul>
<b>Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation, Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites Relevant Authorities Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pembrokeshire Marine: SWEPT (Surveying the Waterway for Pollution Threats) – citizen science project led by the SAC Officer and co-delivered with the West Wales Rivers Trust, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and the Darwin Centre, funded by Natural Resources Wales, has generated a large amount of data on nitrate and phosphate levels.</li> <li>• Pembrokeshire Marine: Pembrokeshire Marine Bilingual Education Pack is in draft</li> <li>• Cardigan Bay: Dolphin and Porpoise Watch monitoring project is recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to collect data on harbour porpoise</li> <li>• Cardigan Bay: shore based field visits delivered to Key Stage Two children from primary schools in Aberaeron, Cei Newydd and Aberporth to celebrate ‘Blwyddyn y môr’ ‘Year of the Sea’</li> <li>• Cardigan Bay: competition with five coastal primary schools in Ceredigion to design posters to accredit or reward businesses who reduce their plastic use and packaging</li> <li>• Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries: pilot project on saltmarsh grazing and water quality to improve water quality issues affecting the cockle fishery and inform saltmarsh grazing limits</li> </ul>
<b>Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training course organised in conjunction with Mid and South West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and delivered by South Wales Fire and Rescue.</li> <li>• Successful promotional presence at</li> </ul>

	<p>Pembrokeshire County Show highlighting the triple benefits of heathland bedding – agricultural, biodiversity and wildfire risk reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful implementation of firebreak cutting and controlled burning programmes</li> <li>• Continued representation on All-Wales Joint Arson Group (JAG)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group has commissioned work on a wide range of research topics relating the waterway including sediment contaminants, macrobenthic surveys, wintering waders and water fowl and shelduck surveys.</li> <li>• The group celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception event for partners.</li> </ul>

**Case Study: Deall Ecosystemau Project**

In 2018 PCNPA took part in a pilot project led by the Bat Conservation Trust encouraging people to take an active interest in finding out more about their local environment and in particular bats.

Members of the public and community groups were able to book and borrow a bat detector pack from Castell Henllys and Llanion HQ and to monitor a location of their choice for a few nights. The detector automatically records the echolocation calls of bats which can then be downloaded and sent to the Bat Conservation Trust for analysis. Each participant receives a report back identifying what bats were recorded, and an indication of the level of activity.

Analysis is still underway but the detectors will be available for loan again this season and the information will be used to help the Bat Conservation Trust to better understand the distribution of bats across the National Park and Wales and to help direct future conservation strategies.

### 3. Species Monitoring

#### Choughs

16. The annual Chough monitoring programme is carried out by experienced ornithologists on a voluntary basis with assistance from PCNPA and Natural Resources Wales staff. Such a comprehensive annual monitoring programme would not be possible without their contribution, in particular Jane Hodges and Bob Haycock for their generous contributions towards both fieldwork and report writing. The costs of volunteer expenses are met jointly by PCNPA and Natural Resources Wales.

#### Breeding Choughs

17. There were a total of 77 occupied territories recorded in the National Park during the 2018 breeding season, with 48 successful pairs fledging a total of 116 young. Overall the picture is of a continuing slight downward trend since a peak in 2016.
18. The 2018 data show a significant number of failures at key stage in the breeding cycle, for example, the number of pairs with eggs (67) dropped to 58 nests with young and to 46 pairs that fledged young.
19. The total non-breeding population estimated during the breeding season was estimated to be between 64-80 individuals. As a % of the total population this was also slightly down on the previous two years.
20. There are many factors which can influence breeding success but 2018 was notable for its weather extremes. A cold snap in mid to late February was followed by a cool wet spring, giving way a very hot and dry June and July when drought conditions prevailed on the coastal slopes. Such weather extremes impact on availability of invertebrate food for both overwintering and breeding birds.

#### Carew Castle Bat Monitoring

21. The data obtained from the surveillance visits carried out in 2018 indicated that numbers and patterns of roost attendance by greater and lesser horseshoe bats in the castle during spring and autumn were similar to those observed in 2017 and in preceding years, and that the castle continued to fulfil the ecological functions required by the two horseshoe bat species.
22. Small numbers of other species of bats, notably pipistrelle species, brown long-eared bats and *Myotis* bats were present in the spring and autumn. Noctule bats were recorded above the castle and environs on one occasion in spring.

#### Barn Owls

23. Barn owls seemed to have a very mixed year in 2018, with some successful nest sites but others producing few or no young. The main reason is believed to be unfavourable weather patterns, which have a very significant impact on feeding conditions.

24. Although several barn owl nest sites (where PCNPA have supplied nest boxes) are checked each year, there is very little baseline data on how barn owls are faring in Pembrokeshire generally. Working with a licensed local ornithologist, we intend to assist the production of a suite of sites which will be assessed each June to build up some initial data.



#### **Case Study: Brynberian Bee Day**

The village of Brynberian is very active on the environmental front and is a hotspot for conservation work (nine holdings in and around the village have joined the Conserving the Park scheme, for example).

On a hot summer's day in 2018, most of the village turned up for a bumblebee training and survey event organised by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and PCNPA. The findings were fed into the national database and it is hoped that these trained-up residents will continue to add to this each summer. The day was very well received and will hopefully lead to other survey events in the area in coming years.



## Appendix 1 - Conservation Land Management Sites – Monitoring Methodology

### Method

A formal assessment considers the species and habitats for which the site is being managed. Monitoring is different for each site depending on what we are trying to achieve through management. The timing of formal visits may be varied from year to year to assess a site with multiple features of interest.

### Monitoring considers two things:

- i) The quality of the habitat which is discerned through the presence and abundance of typical positive indicator species (e.g. typical haymeadow flowers) and negative indicator species (e.g. nettles, docks) as recommended by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. We may also consider vegetation structure in terms of sward heights or the balance of scrub to grassland where these are critical to individual species. We carry out some selected specialist species monitoring for example skylark and marsh fritillary where appropriate.
- ii) Compliance with an on-going suitability of the management regime. This will include information on the appropriate timing of management interventions, the success of individual interventions for example bracken control, and physical audit of capital items.

Relying entirely on (i) above to provide a monitoring result is fraught with difficulty. Species can often ‘hang on’ in habitats of declining quality and natural population fluctuations driven by the weather, or other factors outside of our control can confound the interpretation of these results.

Therefore we combine the information provided by both (i) and (ii) with the professional judgement of experienced staff to assign the site to one of three categories (Red, Amber, Green). Adding a qualitative professional judgement element has been used very successfully in nature conservation scheme monitoring and this was used by the Countryside Council for Wales’ (Natural Resources Wales legacy body) rapid review of SSSIs in 2006.

### Explanation of Monitoring Categories

RED	AMBER	GREEN
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<p>A site is judged to be Red if:</p> <p>A serious or repeated breach of management plan has taken place.</p> <p>Damaging activities have taken place or features of interest destroyed/partially destroyed.</p>	<p>A site is judged to be Amber if:</p> <p>Management is considered compliant and effective but the conservation value of the site will take time to improve.</p> <p>There is a positive direction of travel in terms of quality improvement but with minor deviations from the management plan which may slow recovery or improvement of conservation value.</p> <p>Management is compliant but our recommended management is not producing the expected results.</p>	<p>A site is judged to be Green when the management regime is compliant, the management is effective and the site is of high quality and with high ecological integrity.</p> <p>In the green category we are often 'running to stand still' as maintenance of good condition requires continued management.</p> <p>Such sites may slip back to Amber if the land changes hands or the owners' circumstances change.</p>
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<p>Our response:</p> <p>The Authority will make a judgement on whether to continue involvement with the site.</p>	<p>Our response:</p> <p>In the first case, the positive feedback is provided to the landowner.</p> <p>In the second case we communicate with the landowner regarding ideal management practice and reasons for deviation, perhaps looking for alternatives.</p> <p>In the third case we would work with the landowner to experiment with management. This is standard practice in nature conservation management and is referred to as 'adaptive' management.</p>	<p>Our response:</p> <p>Green sites may stay with the scheme requiring smaller amounts of intervention. For example a site which had capital expenditure such as gates and scrub control may now only need a small amount of on-going assistance with grazing animals.</p> <p>For some sites continued support may be the only option for retaining the conservation interest of the site.</p>
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Some of the detail of these responses are only relevant to the Conserving the Park scheme, but the broad principles apply across all the Authority's conservation portfolio.

## Appendix 2 'Conserving the Park' Scheme

### Background

'Conserving the Park' is Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's flagship scheme for working with private landowners within the National Park. It has proved a powerful tool in delivering practical land management for key habitats and species and is our key vehicle for delivering first purpose conservation objectives in the National Park Management Plan, the Authority's Corporate and Resources Plan and the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership's Local Biodiversity Action Plan / Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Conserving the Park evolved from the highly successful 'Conserving the Coastal Slopes' project, which was the practical answer to the Authority's Chough Conservation Strategy. Further background on this project can be obtained from the excellent project report, which neatly outlines the challenges for conservation management of semi-natural habitats within the National Park and which is as relevant today as it was in 2002.

### Why is it needed?

Habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, marshy grasslands and woodlands and coastal slopes all contribute to the rich diversity of wildlife in the National Park. These semi-natural habitats suffer from a range of issues such as land abandonment, inappropriate stock, lack of grazing and lack of traditional vegetation management.

Outside of designated areas there are gaps in the support available to landowners who aspire to manage their land for the benefit of wildlife. The Conserving the Park scheme aims to fill these gaps, and also to facilitate access to other sources of support and to add value where possible. It is important to note that the scheme is not intended to compete with, or replace, existing schemes.

The scheme supports community spaces such as churchyards, which often hold remnants of ancient flower-rich grassland. Volunteers help out with the annual cut and rake which produces an abundance of spring and summer flowers and excellent pollinator habitat at Stackpole Churchyard.

### How does the scheme work?

Landowners enter the scheme by two main avenues. They may see the scheme information on our flyers or on our website and contact us directly, or as is often the case they are referred to us by one of our partners, for example NRW.

Sites are visited and assessed for current conservation value and condition and their potential to deliver conservation outcomes for priority habitats and species. The list of priority habitats and species has been taken from the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Pembrokeshire which provides action plans for European Annex 1 habitats and Annex 2 species and UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species in Pembrokeshire, as well as those of local concern.

The Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership consists of a wide range of statutory and non-governmental organisations and voluntary organisations. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan is regularly updated and reviewed by a core steering group of key partners including NRW, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales - ensuring information is relevant and up to date. A list of priority habitats and species can be found in Appendix 1 of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Please click:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/biodiversity/pembrokeshire-nature-partnership-plans-and-guidance>



### Help ar gyfer bywyd gwylt ar eich tir

Os ydych yn berchen ar unrhyw dir ac am weld bywyd gwylt yn ffynnu yno, yna fe allwch ein helpu gyda'n nod o ailgyflwyno rwydwaith a goridoriau sy'n hybu bywyd gwylt o lawm y Parc Cenedlaethol. Yn gyfnewid am hyn, fe allwn ni ddarparu:

- Cyngor
- Gwybodaeth ar grantiau a mathau eraill o gymorth
- Help ymarferol rhad ac am ddim gyda staff ac offer arbenigol
- Help gyda gwaith cyfalaf fel ffensiō giatiau cyflenwi dŵr
- Taliadau am reoli tir trwy gytundebau rheolaeth
- Help i goel hyd i'r stoc pori a'r peirianwaith iawn
- Cefnogaeth barhaus hyd yn oed pan fydd y rheolaeth mewn lle

Am fwy o wybodaeth, ffoniwch 0845 345 7275 neu e-bostiwch [julieg@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](mailto:julieg@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

### Help for wildlife on your land

If you own any land where you'd like to see wildlife thriving, then you can help us with our aim to restate a network of wildlife-friendly corridors within the National Park. In return, we can provide:

- Advice
- Information on grants and other assistance
- Free practical assistance with staff and specialist equipment
- Help with capital works such as fencing, water supply, gates
- Payments for managing land through management agreements
- Help to source the right grazing stock and machinery
- Continued support even when management is up and running

For more information, call 0845 345 7275 or email [julieg@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](mailto:julieg@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

**Cynefnoedd allweddol:**

- Glaswelltiroedd • Rhostiroedd
- Gadiroedd • Prysgoed
- Coestiroedd • Gwlypdiroedd
- Tmylan coestiroedd



Parc Cenedlaethol  
Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park

**Key habitats:**

- Grasslands • Heathlands
- Coastal slopes • Scrub
- Woodlands • Wetlands
- Woodland edges

## Process

Check the site is eligible by deciding whether it supports/is capable of supporting priority habitats and species.



Identify the ideal management regime.



Discuss management with the owner and identify barriers to management (such as lack of stock, inability to carry out work, lack of site infrastructure) and sources of alternative funding such as agri-environment schemes.



Barriers to management removed by selecting items from the toolkit (below).



Management and toolkit support agreed with the owner and site enters the scheme. Annual monitoring provides owners with ongoing support and progress updates on their management.

## The Toolkit approach

The Toolkit approach was developed during the Conserving the Coastal Slopes Programme. It is highly effective as it can tailor solutions to site management issues and therefore offer highly targeted support.

