

REPORT OF THE WOODLAND OFFICER

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK WOODLAND POLICY

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is a background paper setting out the National Park Authority's current role and priorities in woodland management. It is considered to be timely to review these in the run up to the review of the National Park Management Plan and in view of (for example) evolving national policy, changes in approaches to woodland management elsewhere in the UK, Members' recent visit to Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre, and the closure of the Pembrokeshire Timber store.

An introduction to the woodland resource in the National Park

- 2.1 Woodland covered more than 80% of the land area in Britain after the last glacial period (~12,000 years ago), and was used for millennia for fuel, food and fibre. By the Iron Age, human uses had reduced woodland cover to around 30%. By the early 20th century, changes in timber demand and agricultural intensification had reduced the UK's woodland cover to about 5% overall.
- 2.2 Today, woodland cover in Wales stands at about 14%, and at about 8.5% in Pembrokeshire. The Pembrokeshire figure consists of approximately 4% coniferous planting, 2.5% secondary woodland (i.e. woodland which has developed over the last 50 years) and 2% Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Sessile oak woodland predominates in the National Park, with mixed woods in the south of the county and some ash woodland associated with limestone areas. Wet woodland is scarce.
- 2.3 The predominance of oak woodland is partly due to the historical requirement for oak to supply charcoal and timber for mining, building and ship-building. Coppice oak woods were typically managed on 25-30 year rotations, but as fuels and technology changed in the 19th century, coppice management virtually ceased, reducing habitat for the wildlife associated with coppice clearings. Renewed demand for timber in the First World War triggered widespread woodland clearances, leading to the creation of the Forestry Commission and its task to rebuild a strategic timber reserve.
- 2.4 Woodland has therefore been influenced by people for millennia, and many woodland species are dependent on some form of woodland management. In fact neglect is a major factor negatively impacting on the condition of the woodland resource today.

Designated woodland sites in the National Park

- 3.1 The UK's best examples of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland are protected through designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Sites of European importance are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
- 3.2 The North Pembrokeshire Woodland SAC includes Pengelli Forest (owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales), Tycanol (owned by the NPA and managed by the Countryside Council for Wales) and other woodlands in the Gwaun Valley (held in private and NPA ownership). (A summary of the NPA's woodland estate is given at Annex 1.) While statutory designation helps to provide recognition of a site's high nature conservation value, and offers protection, designated sites are part of a much wider and vital network of habitat.

Why the NPA is involved in woodland management

- 4.1 A key motive for NPA involvement in woodland management is conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The coverage of native woodland in the National Park may sound low, but its ecological roles are significant. Without intervention, woodland would naturally re-establish itself over much of the UK, and woodlands, woodland edge habitats and hedgerows can be regarded as the basic structure and matrix for maintaining and restoring connections between all habitats and species.
- 4.2 Woodland also makes a major contribution to the character of the landscape (including, in the case of non-native woodlands, the potential to detract from landscape character and biodiversity interest). Other 'landscape functions' of woodlands, which also contribute to National Park purposes and are receiving increasing recognition in the context of Welsh Government's *Living Wales* programme, include ecosystem services such as soil protection, regulation of water and microclimate, carbon sequestration and benefits to people's physical health and mental wellbeing.
- 4.3 Woodland in the National Park often cloaks post-glacial landscapes and ancient monuments, and offers people a peaceful and often comparatively 'wild' experience. Residents and visitors identified woodlands as a special quality of the National Park in a survey for the National Park Management Plan and Local Development Plan in 2007. Woodland access, and recreational and training opportunities, can often be complementary to nature conservation, in terms of their low impact and their potential to increase enjoyment and understanding of the Park and wider environment.
- 4.4 Thus woodland contributes to both of the purposes of UK national parks and to socio-economic wellbeing; timber is but one of the many commodities which may be produced by Wales' native woodlands (Annex 2). However, there is insufficient private and public capacity for woodland management, and this provides a further reason for the NPA's direct involvement. The financial benefits of woodland management often do not justify investment by woodland

owners, even when grant assistance is available, leading to a lack of small-scale woodland contractors.

- 4.5 While National Park purposes and the NPA's duty in pursuit of them provide a direct and sufficient legislative context for NPA involvement in woodland management, the NPA also operates within national and regional policy frameworks, encompassing themes as diverse as biodiversity, health and wellbeing, climate change, ecosystem services and timber production.
- 4.6 Some of the most relevant policy documents as far as the National Park is concerned include the UK, Wales and Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Action Plans, and Welsh Government's Woodland for Wales Strategy. (An outline of this wider context is attached at Annex 3.) In managing woodlands, related features such as woodland edges, hedgerows and individual trees, as well as other habitats, the NPA seeks to integrate the aims and objectives of these wider policy frameworks with National Park purposes and the NPA's duty in pursuit of them. Designated sites also bring particular statutory management responsibilities.
- 4.7 A summary of the NPA's involvement in woodland management is given at Annex 4, while some of the NPA's key achievements are given in Annex 5.

The policy position on woodland management for the NPA and its partners

- 5.1 The current National Park Management Plan (2009-13) sets out a framework for achieving National Park purposes and the NPA's duty within the wider policy context at the time of the Management Plan's last review. In terms of strategic direction this framework still applies; however, officers have taken this opportunity to outline more detailed (woodland) priorities in support of the Management Plan policies in order to summarise for Members the NPA's (and partners') potential contributions to woodland management and wider policy goals.
- 5.2 These priorities will be used in the next Management Plan to guide the associated Action Plan. The Action Plan will include information on (for example) timescales, partners, addition of socio-economic value, measures of impact and exit strategy. (Please see Annex 6 for a fuller description of what this will include.) This is where many of the measures associated with the NPA's work will be located, although for most audiences straightforward metrics like "area of woodland under appropriate conservation management" will be of most interest.
- 5.3 Current Management Plan policies are given in the boxes below (e.g. 'Policy L1: Maintain landscape quality and function'), and woodland-related priorities for the NPA, working with its partners, are bulleted under each¹.

¹ Supporting justification for each of the Management Plan policies can be found in the current Management Plan; all the policies stem from individual or sets of management issues and are aimed at improving the overall state of the National Park.

Policy L1: Maintain landscape quality and function

Woodland priorities:

- We will conserve the National Park's special qualities through management of native and non-native woodlands
- We will contribute to increasing National Park woodland cover (including wood pasture, hedgerows and parkland trees) through (for example) referral to Glastir, landowner assistance, woodland extension, management agreements or land purchase
- We will implement the NPA's statutory duties regarding trees and development, and use Tree Preservation Orders to protect special trees
- We will work to ensure the appropriate management of trees in Conservation Areas
- We will develop the Tree Warden network and community projects (e.g. community orchards)
- We will work to ensure that hedgerows and hedgerow trees are managed in accordance with legislation

(Other priorities also contribute to this policy.)

Policy B1: Promote an ecosystem approach to land management

Policy B2: Limit the impacts of climate change on biodiversity

Woodland priorities:

- We will work closely with partners to influence the direction and delivery of woodland policy
- We will manage woodlands, woodland edges and hedgerows as the basis of maintaining and restoring connections between habitats and species, and we will manage non-woodland habitats within woodlands
- We will manage designated woodlands in line with the relevant protected site management plans
- We will use of the NPA's Woodland Team to carry out conservation management on woodland sites throughout the National Park
- We will manage woodland to protect genetic diversity, vigour and tree health
- We will support and encourage appropriate management of privately-owned semi-natural woodland through the Coed Cymru partnership
- We will participate in an integrated approach to management of invasive species
- We will contribute survey/monitoring data on the condition of native woodland and factors affecting it
- We will manage woodland structure and species composition in order to build woodland and landscape resilience to extreme weather events and anticipated changes in climate
- We will promote the development of timber products that act as carbon stores (e.g. in buildings and furniture)

(Other priorities also apply, in that they may reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase the adaptive potential of woodland species under climate change scenarios.)

Policy B3: Promote regional and local conservation-grade produce

Woodland priorities:

- We will achieve appropriate certification for NPA woodlands and practices
- We will work with business, suppliers and growers to develop a diverse timber resource, which reflects and influences timber demand, and to promote timber use throughout the value chain²
- We will use the NPA's timber procurement policy to support local and Welsh timber businesses
- We will engage with those involved in woodland management (e.g. through the Pembrokeshire Woodland Forum) and contribute (e.g. facilitation, advice, training)
- We will support and develop the contractor base by encouraging management in privately-owned woodlands
- We will promote the sustainable use of local provenance native seeds and trees

These will support other priorities, e.g. reducing disease spread issues associated with imports and reducing wood miles.³

Policy G2: Promote land management which improves soil condition

Policy CC3: Encourage carbon-sensitive land management

Policy W1: Manage flow rate and groundwater levels

Woodland priorities:

- We will manage woodlands in order to maintain soil structure and limit erosion losses, as part of wider catchment management
- We will promote Low Impact Silvicultural Systems in private and public woodlands⁴
- We will promote woodland management as a means of carbon sequestration⁵
- We will develop use of woodchip for fuel and support other biofuel initiatives⁶
- We will promote appropriate use of tree shelterbelts in terms of reducing water run-off rates and improving water quality

Policy E1: Promote appropriate types of recreation

Policy U1: Promote the National Park as an inspirational basis for lifelong learning

Woodland priorities:

- We will maintain, develop and promote public access in woodlands
- We will develop opportunities for community involvement in NPA woodlands
- We will input to schools/colleges programmes and provide venues for educational, experiential and training visits
- We will demonstrate and communicate best practice in sustainable woodland management

² The intention is to increase the economic value of woodland products and insulate suppliers and users from discontinuities in supply/demand.

³ The local softwood market faces competition from cheaper imports and the cost of road transport in the UK. There is also a need to develop markets for western hemlock locally to enable removal of this species from ancient woodland sites.

⁴ These systems provide continuous cover and a diverse age structure, thereby maintaining a forest environment and reducing the harvesting impacts on landscape, biodiversity, soils and water.

⁵ E.g. in woodland soils and in standing and fallen timber, as well as in long-lived wood products..

⁶ Helping to maintain local markets for timber and offsetting fossil fuel use.

Policy AR2: Encourage proactive management of archaeological sites

Woodland priorities:

- We will support the conservation, enjoyment and understanding of the archaeological and historical features of woodlands
- We will communicate the cultural significance of woodlands as a landscape feature, and of wood products and management techniques

Conclusion

6.1 The NPA is involved in a range of proactive woodland management measures which provide a necessary complement to national schemes, partners' programmes and private sector activity. The NPA's activities make key contributions to landscape quality, conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage, the response to climate change, recreational and educational opportunities, and the local economy, through an integrated ecosystem approach.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to NOTE the contents of this report.

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Background Documents

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2009-2013
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Conservation Land Management Strategy 2004 (Woodland Management section updated 2010)
Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre Business Plan 2010/13
A Study to Review the Pembrokeshire Timber Store January 2011 (Landsker Report)

Annex 1 – the NPA’s Woodland Estate

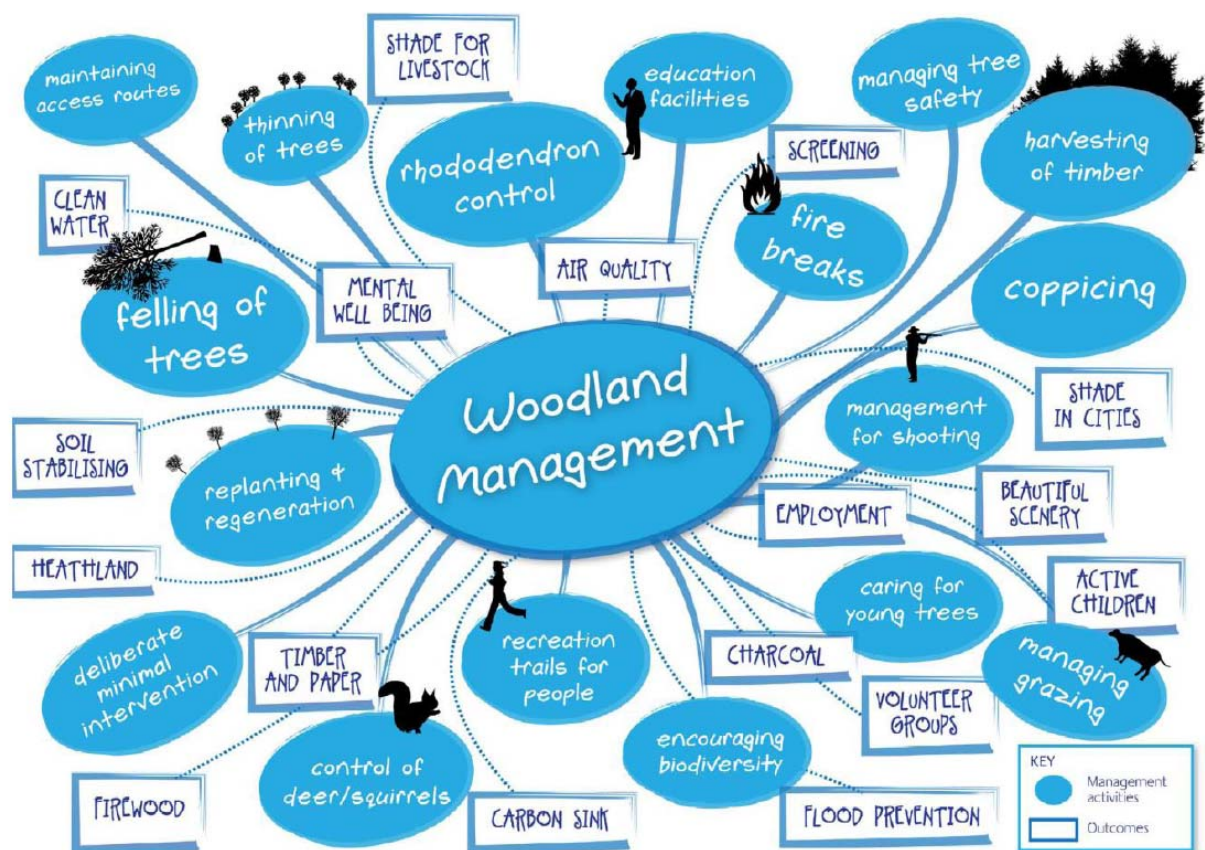
Name of site	Area (ha)	Sheet number	Field no	Area (ha)	Ownership	Significance
*Garn Wood	6.02	SM9935	5713	6.02	Tenancy	SAC, Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tunbridge Filmy Fern / lichens.
Cilrhedyn Wood	3.79	SN0034	0183	3.79	Owned	Demonstration wood. Forest school site
Clyn Wood	14.78 (30.58)	SN0134	Part 0328	14.78	Owned	Ancient Woodland Site, conifer removed 2005, old mine workings, bats and dormice. Car park, Picnic site.
*Kilkiffeth Wood	15.8 (30.58)	SN0134	Part 0328	15.8	Owned	SAC, Site of Special Scientific Interest/Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. Dormice, lichens, archaeological interest.
*Allt Pontfaen Woodland Group	49.1	SN0134 SN0434 SN0234 SN0134 SN0134	0328 2030 3135 5737 9234	30.58 10.69 4.27 2.69 0.87	Managed under informal agreement	SAC Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and Site of Special Scientific Interest/ lichens/dormice. Carpark (under separate lease)
Allt Pengegin Isaf	6.0	SN0334	1903	6.0	Owned	Ancient Woodland Site still undergoing restoration (conifers). Archaeological interest (earthworks). Forest school site
*Sychpant	8.63	SN0435	4811	8.63	Owned	SAC Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Wood pasture (grazed), lichens, invertebrate interest (butterflies), dormice. Car park, Picnic site. Toilet block owned by PCC
Penlan	70.47	SN0435	6092 9577 4749	45.10 13.17 12.20	Owned	Restored conifer plantation near Newport. Heathland and native woodland developing, site grazed.
Coed Pentre Ifan	34.18	SN0937	3283	33.66	Owned	Ancient Woodland- site restoration ongoing. Adjacent Ty Canol NNR. Archaeological interest, dormice. Education interest (Adjacent Urdd, Canolfan Pentre Ifan)
*Ty Canol	68.46				Owned Managed by CCW	SAC Ancient Semi Natural woodland, National Nature Reserve. Lichens, dormice, archaeological interest. Site grazed. Management advice and practical input from PCNPA
Prendergast (Solva)	6				Owned	Community woodland. Secondary woodland, Landscape importance
Saundersfoot Plantation	1.3				Owned	Tree Preservation Order. Community woodland. Plantation on old mine workings built-up area.
Dungeon Wood Saundersfoot	0.5				Owned	No access. Landscape feature.
Total Area	285.03					

* Part of North Pembrokeshire Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Notes: Freshwater East has an element of woodland but this has not been counted separately; it is considered part of the dune system (dune woodland) and is not included here although woodland management work is undertaken there.

All sites have public access; some permissive routes have also been developed unless otherwise indicated.

Annex 2 – Benefits of woodlands



Source: MacDonald, B. (2012) Agri-environment, Climate and Forestry Working Group Thematic Report (draft)

Annex 3 - Policy context

Woodland for Wales Strategy

This defines the policy of the Welsh Government and the Forestry Commission Wales (the latter shortly to become part of Natural Resources Wales) that underpins the approach to be taken both in the publicly owned woodlands and forests and through statutory controls and grant aid what should happen in privately owned woodlands throughout Wales.

The vision for the next 50 years is that Wales will be known for its high-quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats. These will:

- Provide real social and community benefits, both locally and nationally;
- Support thriving woodland-based industries; and
- Contribute to a better quality environment throughout Wales.

To deliver this vision, *Woodlands for Wales* is framed around Welsh woodlands and trees as a foundation from which to deliver four strategic themes:

- Responding to climate change – coping with climate change, and helping to reduce our carbon footprint
- Woodlands for people – serving local needs for health, education, and jobs
- A competitive and integrated forest sector – innovative, skilled industries supplying renewable products from Wales
- Environmental quality – making a positive contribution to biodiversity, landscapes and heritage, and reducing other environmental pressures

The Strategy highlights 20 key areas for action addressing 5 main themes. These themes were developed with reference to woodland Biodiversity Action Plans, community involvement and sustainable development themes and involved considerable consultation with stakeholders including the NPA (represented on the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel since its inception in 2001). These 20 action areas are used as a focus for the NPA's priorities.

Welsh Woodlands and Trees

- More woodlands and trees are managed sustainably.
- Woodland ecosystems are healthy and resilient.
- Woodlands are better adapted to deliver a full range of benefits.
- Woodland cover in Wales increases.
- The management of woodland and trees is more closely related to that of other land uses.
- Urban woodlands and trees deliver a full range of benefits.

Responding to Climate Change

- Welsh woodlands contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of Wales.

Woodlands for People

- More communities benefit from woodlands and trees.

- More people enjoy the life-long learning benefits of woodlands and their products.
- More people live healthier lives as a result of their use and enjoyment of woodlands.
- More people benefit from woodland related enterprises.

A competitive and Integrated Forest Sector

- More Welsh grown timber is used in Wales.
- The forest sector is better integrated and more competitive, supporting the Welsh economy.
- Increased use of timber as a key renewable resource.
- A thriving, skilled workforce in the forestry sector.

Environmental Quality

- Woodland management achieves high standards of environmental stewardship.
- Woodlands and trees of special conservation value are in favourable management.
- Woodland biodiversity is supported and native woodland is in favourable management.
- Woodlands and trees make a positive contribution to the special landscape character of Wales and to sites of heritage and cultural importance.
- New and existing trees and woodland contribute to water and soil management.

Habitats Directive and Biodiversity Action Plans

Biodiversity targets are defined at every level from the global (where the UK has, amongst other nations, failed to meet 2010 targets for conserving biodiversity), to the local where we set out the direct actions that need to happen to stem the flow of losses as the pressures and demands society places on the land continue to increase. Woodland is a Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and UK BAP habitat (including lowland mixed broadleaved woodland, upland oak woodland, wood pasture and wet woodland).

Biodiversity actions can be delivered in many ways; by conservation organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, National Trust, National Park and Countryside Council for Wales on owned sites, Countryside Council for Wales and National Park through management agreements on other sites including agricultural land and Welsh Government through agri-environment schemes on farmland, for example. However it is difficult to get a well-networked approach that can address the bigger issues and actions tend to focus on existing wildlife sites, though in Pembrokeshire with the National Trust and National Park there has been much effort put into restoring Plantation Ancient Woodland sites (PAWs) sites.

Annex 4 – The NPA’s involvement in woodland management

The Forestry Commission was set up in 1919 to address the wholesale felling of the UK woodland resource during and immediately after World War 1 following the huge demand for pit props and charcoal. This had left the UK with little timber standing and very vulnerable in terms of a home grown resource. At this juncture, conifers offered a faster growing alternative and new plantations appeared sometimes through compulsory land purchase in our uplands and replacing what was then considered to be slow growing ‘scrub oak’ woodland in our valleys. This practice continued up to and including the 1970s. It was only when plans to plant over 40 hectares right in the heart of the Gwaun valley at Allt Pontfaen was considered, the National Park stepped in and took out a lease with the landowner to preserve the native woodland here both for its landscape and scientific interest.

Following this other small areas of either SSSI woodland or Planted Ancient Woodland sites (PAWs) suitable for restoration ended up in the NPA’s portfolio (Annex1). By the late 1980s Coed Cymru was on the scene and had begun to address the issue of the neglect of broadleaved woodland by encouraging landowners to both manage their woodlands and find useful outlets for the timber and wood products these woods produced.

The severe storm in 1990 which blew over much of Garn Wood and Cilrhedyn wood prompted the National Park to consider linking its own woodland management and timber use (a workshop at Withybush producing stiles, gates and way marking). The idea of a facility which would bring both management and production together was helped along when a redundant sheep shed at Cilrhedyn was offered for sale. With support from the Welsh Development Agency the Centre at Cilrhedyn was officially opened in 1994.

In the National Park woodland management has not to date been supported through management agreements, where the owner undertakes to carry out the work identified for annual payments, as we do with non woodland sites (usually through grazing management). This is mainly due to the much higher costs of woodland management, the low value of small diameter hardwood and the fact that sites usually have difficult access, in addition specialist skills are required and specialist equipment to work these sites. These above are the main reasons why many woodlands still remain unmanaged today; however the gap has been largely filled through Coed Cymru who has been instrumental in achieving woodland management in private woodlands through the various Forestry Commission grant schemes.

Since 1992 a three man woodland team has brought back into management more than 200 hectares (500 acres) of SSSI and PAWs sites and also now provide an in-house tree climbing service to undertake tree safety work on many NPA properties. The Woodland Team is responsible for specialist forestry equipment and they have both compact and medium scale machinery suitable for working in small woodlands, there is no equivalent resource currently available in the private sector. A management programme is based on full site and SAC management plans. Thinning over the past 20 years has favoured both biodiversity and the longer term economic value of the woodlands. Today we are beginning to see the benefits of this work with larger trees developing favoured by thinning and singling coppice regrowth and a

more varied woodland structure (uniformity of both age and structure was a limiting factor) that is important for the long term viability of the woodland habitat. Products including cleft oak fencing stakes, charcoal, woodchip and firewood are produced.

To date (apart from the timber resulting from the storm in 1990) due to the age and development of the woodlands the National Park woodland resource has not been able to provide the larger diameter raw material required by the Mill and Workshop. Woodland management is a long term activity, foresters think in tens if not hundreds of years when determining actions to produce mature trees. Oak is barely considered mature at 100 years with 150-200 years producing trees that can be sawn into many of the products we require. Veteran trees which support the richest wildlife are anything from at least 150- 500 years old.

Annex 5 - Direct and indirect benefits of the NPA's woodland management

Direct action:

- a) 120 ha of conifer woodland restored to either heathland (45 hectares at Penlan) or semi-natural woodland (75 ha throughout the Gwaun and Pentre Ifan).
- b) 200 ha of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland has had at least one or more management interventions including thinning or coppicing and rides and glades created and managed.
- c) 4 miles of access track has been created to allow ongoing management at Pontfaen, Penlan, Kilkiffeth, Pentre Ifan, Clyn, Cilrhedyn and Pengegin
- d) 6 miles of additional permissive access has been created on Woodland sites (Penlan, Pentre Ifan, Kilkiffeth, Clyn, Pengegin and Cilrhedyn)
- e) Access routes are now maintained in house by the woodland team
- f) The team has contributed to woodland management in non PCNPA managed woodlands at Tycanol and Pengelli Forest (50 and 67 ha respectively)
- g) Grazing has been implemented at Penlan and Sychpant in line with management plans
- h) Fencing is maintained at all our owned and leased sites (also non woodland NPA sites as required)
- i) Health and Safety (H & S) tree audits are undertaken at least annually depending on site risks (Castell Henllys more regularly)
- j) Since 2008 Tree Surgery work / tree climbing work (H&S requirements) has been carried out in house (estimated saving £6K annually)
- k) The team have developed a mechanical splitter for producing cleft oak fencing at more commercial rates (fencing sales £9K in 2011/12)
- l) Traditional hardwood charcoal production has been maintained to supply NPA Centres
- m) 30 ha and more of new/restored dormouse habitat has been created
- n) The team have been trained to comply with European Protected Species (EPS) legislation for Bats and Dormice
- o) Biodiversity Action Plan outcomes for a wide range of woodland habitats and species delivered, including wood pasture, butterflies, woodland birds, lichens etc
- p) Garn wood and Cilrhedyn restored following severe damage in the 1990 hurricane
- q) 14 hectares of woodland has been replanted following conifer removal
- r) 55 ha of natural regeneration at Pentre Ifan, Penlan, Garn and Clyn is underway
- s) Most woodlands in current Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) grant scheme (until 2014/15)
- t) Planting at Penpedwast adjacent to Pengelli Forest

Indirect action:

- a) 171 ha of woodland managed 2011/12 as a result of Coed Cymru Officer actions in the National Park
- b) 480 ha of woodland managed across Pembrokeshire since 2004 as a result of Coed Cymru Officer actions
- c) 12 advisory visits undertaken in 2011/12 by Coed Cymru in the National Park
- d) 8 new Woodland Plans prepared by Coed Cymru Officer under the BWW scheme which ended in Dec 2011.

- e) 4 product development advisory visits (2011/12) undertaken by Coed Cymru in Pembrokeshire
- f) 414 contractor days generated in woodland management by Coed Cymru Officer in Pembrokeshire (2011/12)
- g) Developed an Accord with the Woodland Trust and including Pembrokeshire County Council and Coed Cymru to further woodland planting in Pembrokeshire
- h) Woodland open day events have been held with partners (Pengelli, Kilkiffeth, Pentre Ifan, Cilrhedyn)
- i) Undertaken research into conifer deforestation/heathland restoration and woodland management
- j) 10 students have benefitted from 6 week student placements with the team
- k) A Pembrokeshire Woodland Forum facilitated and chaired by the NPA involving circa 70 members meets twice a year to discuss woodland biodiversity issues and members receive regular 'e' updates on woodland matters for example *phyophthora*, volunteer activities, events and training.
- l) The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park run a volunteer 'Tree warden' network under the Tree Council scheme and action community tree planting, orchards etc
- m) In collaboration with the Woodland Trust through the MOREwoods scheme: 11.5 ha planted 2010/11; 2.39 ha planted in 2011/12 and input to design of Bluestone Diamond Wood (24.3 ha)

Annex 6 – Draft template for the Action Plan

The Action Plan will be a new and free-standing document which will substantially inform the NPA's corporate plan.

The Action Plan, coupled with the updated National Park Management Plan, will replace many other National Park Authority plans/documents and strengthen the audit trail between National Park purposes and the National Park Authority's work.

The Action Plan may also provide a framework for and possible test against Section 62(ii) of the Environment Act which requires relevant bodies to have regard to National Park purposes in conducting their business.

To generate the Action Plan, the suggested approach is to take the policies from the revised Management Plan and set out what is needed to achieve them. This should involve working through all the opportunities to achieve the policy and the potential barriers to achieving it, taking into account practicalities, policy drivers and constraints.

Management Plan policies will cover a range of management responses – e.g. practical management, seeking change in policy/legislation, raising awareness, encouraging/supporting a partner organisation, etc. It may be that several policies can be addressed with one integrated programme of action, or that several diverse actions are needed to address one policy. So actions/programmes will inevitably vary in scale. As these take shape we will need to ensure that they form sensible work packages, and that they are delivered in the most effective and efficient way.

In particular the action plan will need to identify:

1. What needs to happen over the plan period (e.g. in terms of impact sought)
2. What will actually be done (milestones) and over what timescale
3. Where it will happen (this will help give a further spatial expression to the Management Plan)
4. Who the lead partner is
5. Who else is involved
6. How and when the impact of the programme will be assessed and reported i.e. measures of impact (rather than of outcome/progress on Park purposes, which will be in the Management Plan)
7. Whether there are any constraints (e.g. consents) or consultation required
8. Funding sources
9. How the project will be communicated (before, during, after) and good practice shared
10. A statement on how the actual *process* of delivering the project can add socio-economic value*
11. Exit strategy

Existing/continuing management programmes will require a similar reasoned justification as new programmes.

***The National Park Authority duty – belt and braces**

(As per item 10 in the list above.) The National Park Authority's duty to foster socio-economic wellbeing is substantially served by action to achieve the purposes themselves. E.g. in managing a site or right of way for conservation and enjoyment we are managing part of the tourism offer and therefore contributing to the local economy.

However in designing projects we will also bear in mind considerations such as the following in order to ensure that the most benefit is obtained 'along the way', for example we should consider:

- how we might reach or involve excluded individuals
- the NPA's ecological footprint, use of materials, waste hierarchy
- involvement of volunteers

The NPA's internal procedures e.g. procurement, timber use, Welsh language scheme will also apply.

All projects should seek to be compatible with the Landscape Character Assessments at <http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=249> It may be that there are a number of ways to do a project and that some are more sympathetic to or appropriate in some landscape character areas than others.