

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2020/21



PEMBROKESHIRE COAST
CHARITABLE TRUST



Gateholm
Front cover: Treginnis

Annual Impact Report 2020/21

A few words from our Chair

2020 is a year that we will never forget. As we all stayed at home and navigated a new way of living, charities and good will across Pembrokeshire and the UK responded and supported our communities. With restrictions on accessing the outdoors, many of us began exploring more places closer to home, increasing our understanding and appreciation of nature on our doorstep.

Throughout the year, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust continued raising awareness of the importance of meadows, pollinators and woodlands and delivered education programmes through our existing initiatives.

We continued to fundraise and support projects that conserve biodiversity, such as **Making More Meadows**, and projects that educate children on the natural world, such as the **Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools**. We even managed to capture some 'secret footage' of wildlife on the Castlemartin Range, and support volunteers working on the county's special Archaeology sites.

Heartfelt thanks to you for continuing to support the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust. We couldn't do any of this work without you.



Elsa Davies



Our charitable objectives are to:

- Promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and surrounding areas, including wildlife within the National Park.
- Advance education about the importance of the National Park, the wildlife within and the natural landscapes.
- Promote use of the National Park for recreation and leisure in order to improve social welfare.
- In order to deliver on our aims and charitable objectives we have supported eight projects that were identified as priorities for the National Park in 2020/21.



PROTECTING THE NATIONAL PARK, FOR TODAY, TOMORROW AND THE FUTURE



8

projects supported



£61,548

income raised



52

hectares of meadow supported



5

primary schools
involved in the Roots project



700

pupils engaged in outdoor
learning



6

different species of bees
recorded in 3 hours



8

new meadow sites



4

catchments tackled for
invasive non-native species



Project Name: Make More Meadows

Project Summary

In the UK we've lost over 95% of our wildflower meadows in the last 75 years, meaning there are fewer special places for flowers, bees and other wildlife to grow, live and thrive. We wanted to help change this, before it's too late.

The first stage of our Make More Meadows campaign aimed to raise £10,000 to enable us to protect, restore and create new meadows in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. These meadows would conserve, protect and maintain wildlife. We also wanted to share the message about the importance of meadows as widely as possible.

Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

Eight new meadow sites covering 52 hectares have been supported, including one new meadow being created from scratch. Seven meadows are undergoing restoration to safeguard them for the future.

These meadows offer 'stepping stones' for wildlife, enabling insects and plants to move across a wider area so that their species can thrive and be sustained.

Creation of stepping stones between pockets of land allow species that have some ability to disperse (e.g. insects) to move between larger areas of habitat and help maintain viable populations.

One species benefiting from the wildlife stepping stones is the Marsh fritillary butterfly. One of our most threatened species, the Marsh fritillary butterfly has declined dramatically in recent decades as its habitat has been lost. They don't usually fly very far, and tend to go only as far as the adjacent field. It is therefore vital that there are suitable 'stepping stones' nearby for them to spread. This project enables this to happen.

A scarce Sausage Beard-lichen, *Usnea articulata*, was also found this year in one of the new meadow sites. The lichen relies on hawthorns and willows in and around traditionally-managed meadows, as it needs clean air, sunshine and windy conditions to thrive. A few years ago it was restricted to just 15 locations across South Wales. Fortunately, it was found in a cluster of adjoining meadows, so it is likely to increase in abundance in the years to come.

With your support, we were not only able to raise £10,000, but have committed to funding this project on an on-going basis, creating and safeguarding more meadows, now and for future generations.

Project Name: Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

Project Summary:

The project was developed to support more children in Pembrokeshire to benefit from outdoor learning opportunities aligned to the new Welsh Curriculum. The funding included a Co-ordinator to work with schools and the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools Partnership.

Because children were spending a huge amount of time learning from home during the last 12 months, attention moved from delivering face to face sessions to a focus on website resources and the use of social media to share information with schools, teachers and parents who were supporting children at home.

Project Outcomes and Impact

- Six online training events delivered to over 80 teachers and staff, providing tools, tips and skills to use the outdoors as a learning opportunity and classroom.
- 700 pupils engaged with outdoor learning.
- Improved Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools website, including new resources for teachers and specific COVID-19 support.
- Events delivered included: training on outdoor learning and the New Curriculum for Wales; teaching safely in the outdoors; a virtual school grounds tour; developing school grounds to create opportunities for students; outdoor learning in areas local to schools; and sharing good practice and ideas from three schools in the county.

Legacy of the project – empowering and enabling teachers to deliver more of their teaching in an outdoor setting. These practices and principles will remain in place long after, as well the materials and resources developed for educators.





Project Name: **Gwreiddiau / Roots**

Project Summary

Roots was developed in partnership with South Hook LNG Terminal and the National Park as a new education project to boost children's knowledge of local produce and help link local schools with local producers. It also aims to provide a better understanding of how the land around us gives back and grows what we eat, while also increasing local children's awareness about the producers we have here on our doorstep in Pembrokeshire.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme had to be adapted. However, the essence of what Roots was set up to achieve has remained the same.

A new programme was developed that enabled the school, its teachers and pupils to explore the school grounds and the surrounding area as part of Roots. Included in this were developments that enabled more growing to take place in school grounds, taking children from planting all the way through to harvesting and cooking.

Roots has also enabled schools to invest in their outdoor learning spaces through installing new fencing, creating raised beds and allotments and buying new equipment needed for growing in schools.

The project has also maximised the opportunities for additional experiences through virtual visits with producers. Online learning has also supported pupils to gain a better understanding of where food comes from locally and how it is produced.

Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

The Roots project has been working closely with five primary schools in the Milford Haven Cluster.

- Over 40 sessions across five schools have been delivered.
- Over 600 students have been involved in practical outdoor learning sessions.
- More than 20 teachers and LSAs have been supported in planning outdoor sessions, helping to boost confidence for delivering more learning in outdoor settings.
- Delivered activities such as: fruit picking, apple pressing, chutney making, planting potatoes, tree planting, wheat grinding and flour making.

“ ”

Our fabulous Fridays have been really successful. I have seen the children grow in confidence since we started using the outdoors weekly. They run into school with smiles on their faces every Friday. The children have enjoyed picking apples and using them to make their own apple juice. They also enjoyed grinding wheat and making their own flour. They were all able to make their own salt dough decorations out of the flour which they gave to their parents as a harvest present. Tom, Bryony and Graham have all been fantastic! They have really inspired me as a teacher to use the outdoors as often as possible.

Mrs Gemma Morris, Year 2 Teacher

Project Name:

People, Paths and Pollinators

Project Summary (Year 2)

This pilot project is about placing biodiversity advancement at the heart of maintaining the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and improving wildlife interest for locals and visitors, while still ensuring its quality as a National Trail.

The Path, Plants and Pollinators project has been surveying a section of the path network from Newgale to Abereiddi. It implements a range of small scale habitat management jobs that will improve connectivity between existing managed conservation areas and embed pollinator-friendly activities into day to day Coast Path management.

Despite the difficulties globally, 2020 turned into a promising year for pollinating insects along the Pembrokeshire Coast.

Pollinators are a fundamental component of our biodiversity, and insects are responsible for 90% of crop pollination. Not only do they pollinate food crops but they are also vital for the survival of plants that support much of our wildlife.

Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

- A further 65 miles of Coast Path have been surveyed. In total, 90 miles covering Goodwick to Gelliswick.
- Over the winter months, National Park Wardens broke up roughly 2000m of Coast Path wind tunnels before the bird nesting season.
- Bee surveys continued when restrictions allowed. The best survey results were 150 individual bees of six different species in just 3 hours.
- Autumn ladies tresses orchid (*Spiranthes spiralis*) was found near Porthclais, 10-15 years since it was last recorded. It is a rare, delicate-looking orchid.
- Pollinator plans have been implemented at Porthgain and Oriel y Parc. Surveys this summer will show if the management is working.
- Wardens are continuing the good work from last year by leaving plants to flower and seed before cutting them as well as creating more bee banks and breaking up wind tunnels.
- Signs for oil beetles have been put out along the path in key areas asking people to look out for them and report any sightings.
- A new hedgerow has been planted at Oriel Y Parc with woodland fruit trees and fruit bushes.





Project Name: Castlemartin Wildlife Camera

Project Summary

Castlemartin has been an important military range since 1939. Due to the lack of pesticide use, agricultural intensification and building development, as well as the restricted public access, it is a haven for wildlife, including: Chough, Marsh fritillary butterflies, Grey seals and Green-winged orchids. Lynne Houlston, National Park Ranger, monitors these and other species across the Range's 6,000 acres.



Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

Last year, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust, was able to provide a camera at Castlemartin to film wildlife on the Range. The video can be seen by visiting the news section of the Trust website under Castlemartin Range. The fantastic film footage was taken within a small woodland in the centre of Range West.



Project Name: Wild About Woodlands

Project Summary

In 2020 The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust's Wild About Woodlands appeal was set up to plant and protect an additional 1,000 much needed trees across the National Park.

From woods to hedge banks, coastal valleys to orchards and fields, trees are under threat and more of them are needed. In the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park we expect to lose at least 90% of all ash trees.

The project will address key threats to the condition of traditional boundaries, trees and woodlands and also raise awareness of the value of these habitats. 2020 was spent fundraising for the campaign. We have already made a start with planting some trees donated by the Greener Camping club, but there will be more to come in 2021.

We are extremely grateful to those who have donated so far and we look forward to reporting in detail about the tree planting that your generous donations have supported in next year's Impact Report.



Coed Pen yr allt ddu

Project Name: Archaeology Uniforms

Project Summary

During 2020, the National Park Authority recruited 16 volunteers to monitor publicly accessible scheduled monuments within the National Park. In total, over 50 percent of scheduled monuments within the National Park are routinely visited as part of this scheme to identify issues. Their contribution ensures that the National Park Authority is in a stronger position to safeguard these nationally important monuments.

Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

To help with this activity, volunteers were provided with uniform and equipment to successfully complete their visits. The uniforms were funded from donations to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust, from the 2020 Pembrokeshire Archaeology Day.





Project Name: Stitch in Time (Year 2)

Project Summary

This is the second year of the Stich in Time project, supporting conservation by tackling invasive non-native species. Invasive non-native species (INNS) are a key driver of biodiversity loss globally and locally.

The Stich in Time project pilot focusses on the invasive annual Himalayan balsam and invasive perennial Japanese knotweed and includes four catchments where the project's catchment approach is being refined. These are: Cwm Gwaun and Porthgain, Castlemartin Corse and a sub-catchment of the Nyfer, Afon Clydach.

As well as the project catchments, the project engages with and advises Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Ranger and community groups.

Project Outcomes and Impact to Date

- Advice provided to 32 members of the public, landowners and other organisations on a range of invasive plant species by the project officer.
- A successful two-phase approach to catchment control of the invasive annual Himalayan balsam has been developed.
- Total 36.15 ha in process and 14.21ha in monitoring phase of control of the Himalayan balsam invasive species across the four catchments.
- Sustainable management of Japanese knotweed across the original pilot catchment at Cwm Gwaun and reducing infestations from hundreds of stems to tens of stems over an approximate area of 7 hectares, helping to increase the catchment's overall biosecurity.
- Engagement with landowners and communities (45 total).
- 518 volunteer hours were contributed to the project during 2019 and 2020. Volunteering is a key aspect of land management and the project has provided online training during the pandemic on invasive non-native species, pollinators and wildflowers.
- Delivery of an online Best Practice Event demonstrating the methods used for a successful catchment approach to controlling Himalayan balsam. 56 people attended.

In other news

The Trust was fortunate to receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Welsh Government's Green Recovery Support Fund. This funding has enabled the Trust to produce a three-year communication strategy and plan to help grow support and engagement with the charity. Our focus is to share our vital messaging about the importance of the National Park as a special place and how together we can protect it.

We hope to increase support so more people can be involved and learn about how they can help with local nature, biodiversity and climate change. The Fund is also enabling us to launch a new small grant scheme called the '**Force for Nature Grant**'. The scheme seeks to support community groups in the National Park that deliver on the aims of the charity. More about the projects that this fund has supported will be shared next year.

Our plans for the year ahead...

Over the next year, we will be focusing our efforts on planting more trees in the National Park. We are very excited to be launching our the First 1000 Days project, which seeks to support parents and carers with pre-school aged children to access nature and the outdoors.

We will also be working with lots of new local partners and groups through the launch of our first mini grant scheme, **Force for Nature**, on projects that represent positive conservation actions, in and around the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

As ever, we continue to care deeply for conservation, community, culture and our coast and will lead the way in protecting them. We are committed to supporting the best projects delivered by the best people and informed by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan, local communities and environmental and heritage experts.





Haroldston Chins

Personal thanks to our 2020/21 Funders

We would like to thank all of our individual supporters who have donated to us over the year. We couldn't do what we do, without you.

Companies who have supported us:

Batsford Books
DS Smith Charitable Trust
Greener Camping Club
South Hook LNG
The Barony of Cemaes

Trusts and Foundations:

CLA Charitable Trust
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Jenour Foundation
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Waterloo Foundation
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Individuals we would like to give special thanks to:

David Leyshon
Duncan Fitzwilliams
Millie Marotta

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is kindly supporting our operating costs until 2023, which means every donation will help much-needed projects across the National Park.

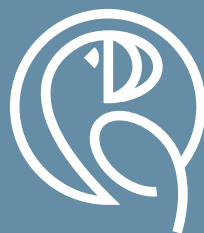


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Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Porth Maenmelyn
Rear cover: Penplediau

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ARFORDIR PENFRO



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