

# Inquiry into Access to Inland Water

## Evidence from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



### **What is the present situation in the National Park?**

Few possibly navigable rivers in Pembrokeshire, four in the county, only two in the National Park and those can only be used during or after a spate.

None with any agreements or rights for on-water access.

No natural lakes of any size and two reservoirs one of which has public access.

### **Is there demand for water recreation?**

#### *'Yes' in Pembrokeshire*

Good coastal and estuary access provides most of what is needed but results from our 2007 project suggest there is local demand for inland water access and Llys y Fran reservoir have continued to offer well-supported water access and taster sessions.

Results from South West Wales Coastal Recreation Audit indicate that out of the 32 activities surveyed, canoeing has seen the strongest level of growth in participation levels in the last 5 years. Increasing levels of use have been recorded at 64 out of 72 coastal locations. It may be reasonable to expect similar interest on rivers.

Almost all of our riverside paths are open and well used and we are negotiating path access to Rosebush reservoir which may in turn lead to on-water access.

### **Is progress with river access through voluntary agreements realistic?**

#### *'Unlikely' in Pembrokeshire*

An example of a river with banks in multiple ownership is shown overleaf. Our experience with riverside permissive paths is that those in single ownership can work well, but when many individual landowners are

involved, one objection can stop the whole process, sometimes for reasons unconnected with the access.

### **Is it reasonable to expect success in negotiating access across private land for launching/recovery?**

*'Yes' There is potential as long as funding to agree access and to promote and manage opportunities is available*

The comparable model of new accesses onto CROW land and associated funding of the access programme has worked well.

Without such follow-up there is a serious risk that an open-access river will encourage trespass on adjacent land.

### **Can we manage river recreation?**

#### *'Yes' in Pembrokeshire*

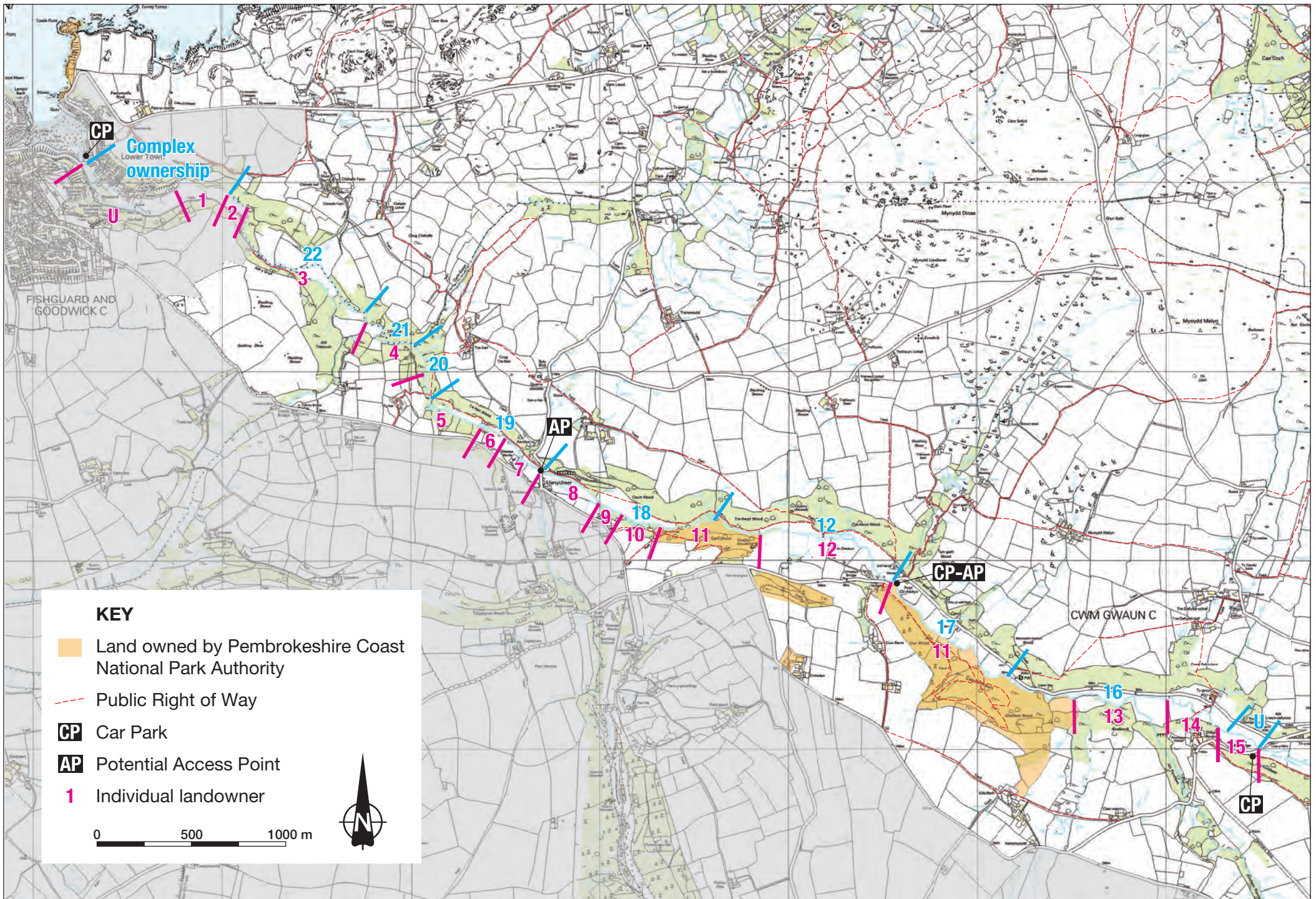
As with the coast, patrolling and controlling river recreation is unrealistic, but the Outdoor Charter approach offering training and information has proved a cost-effective and realistic way forward for coastal recreation. It should be possible to transfer this approach to river recreation.

#### **Websites**

<http://www.pembrokeshireoutdoors.org.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1099>





**KEY**

- Land owned by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
- Public Right of Way
- CP** Car Park
- AP** Potential Access Point
- Individual landowner

0      500      1000 m

