

## **ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Wednesday 17 January 2001

**Time:** 2.00 to 5.15 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 3, National Assembly Building

## **NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES - PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

### **1999 - 2000, FIRST HALF 2000 - 01**

1. Wales' three National Park Authorities each prepare a portfolio of plans setting out their policies and how they will achieve them. Section 66 of the 1995 Environment Act requires NPAs to prepare and publish National Park Management Plans as statements of their policy for managing and carrying out their functions in relation to the Parks. All NPAs already have National Park Plans for their areas which perform a similar role and which are required to be reviewed every five years. A Corporate Work Plan details the annual work programme, with targets, to fulfil the strategy; the annual Best Value Performance Plan reviews achievements and sets out measures to improve performance.

2. Additionally, the Park Authorities submit annual National Park Grant bidding documents to the National Assembly summarising the performance in the past year and putting forward the justification for additional funding. Each Park prepares also an Annual Report detailing, in an easily read format, activities and achievements in the previous year. Copies have been made available to Committee Members.

3. Reporting on and monitoring of performance is fundamental to all these documents, but the Corporate Work Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan particularly identify and measure detailed targets and performance indicators for each area of work.

4. The detailed set of Corporate Work Plan targets are used to measure service performance and achievements, and to help embed the philosophy of "quality assurance" in the Park workforce. These are periodically reviewed by each Park Authority and involve Members in the monitoring and standard setting process. Examples of performance against some key work targets for both 1999-2000 and the first half of 2000-01 are shown under each Park in Appendix I. These targets are

categorised under the Parks' work areas but could equally be listed as contributing to the National Assembly's Betterwales.com objectives of :

1. A better quality of life
2. A better stronger economy
3. Better opportunities for learning
4. Better health and wellbeing.

5. The National Parks in both Wales and England have now agreed a corporate set of Performance Indicators for inclusion in Best Value Performance Plans. These are shown in Appendix II and are additional to the Corporate Health Indicators and the Planning Indicators prescribed by the National

Assembly, and those prescribed by the Audit Commission. In addition the Parks are encouraged to add their individual local indicators. These indicators will be in place for the next financial year (2001-02) and a number of the National Park Indicators will be regularly reported to enable the National Assembly to assess the performance of the Parks.

6. The National Park Authorities recognise that whilst it is essential to monitor their own performance, a wider measure of the condition and contribution of the National Parks is desirable. Accordingly we will be looking to develop longer term indicators which will monitor, in conjunction with others, the State of the Parks. What is needed is a robust assessment of the Parks as areas of special interest to the public - in Wales, throughout the UK, and on an international level.

7. Turning to the detail of this first report to the National Assembly on National Park performance monitoring the two parts of Appendix I demonstrates service performance against Park priorities and responsibilities.

Appendix II sets out the National Performance Indicators agreed by all National Parks in England and Wales.

8. As a context for these reviews it should be noted that performance in 1999/2000 is despite a zero settlement - in effect a 4% cash cut - for that year, the second zero settlement in three years. In relation to the performance for the first half of the current financial year, the impact of Best Value - and especially the service reviews - is seen in some service areas. An 8.3% increase was awarded by the National Assembly for Wales in 2000-01 and 11.01% for 2001-02.

## **Appendix 1**

### **PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS 1999 - 2000**

#### **SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK**

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>

<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1. Complete 4 whole farm agreements and 65 farm capital agreements.	7 Farm agreements.  120 capital agreements.
• Prepare 19 new habitat and species action plans, and work on 38 existing in the Biodiversity Action Plan	Completed.
• Establish 30 ha of new native woodland.	52.8 ha achieved.
• Bring 350 ha of un-managed woodland into management.	63.3 ha (low due to delay in launch of Tir Gofal).
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
• Grant aid repair of 35 listed and historic buildings.	40 buildings grant aided
• Excavate/consolidate/repair four archaeological sites.	2 Completed.  2 Progressed.
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
• Establish upland footpath partnership for upkeep of upland paths.	Completed.
• Build boardwalk access to Morfa Dyffryn in conjunction with Countryside Council for Wales.	Completed.
• Improve access for people with disabilities to 2 sites.	Completed.
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
• Redevelop Betws y Coed Information Centre	80% completed.
• Commence development of new Information Centre at Beddgelert.	Started.
<b>WARDENS, ESTATE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS</b>	
• Develop Warden Centre at Llyn Ogwen.	Completed.
• Establish new Warden Centre at Beddgelert.	Completed.

<b>PLANNING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally adopt Eryri Local Plan.</li> </ul>	Completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete part I of the Unitary Development Plan.</li> </ul>	Approved for consultation in July 2000.

## PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME E</b>
<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1. Develop Local Biodiversity Action Plan with partners	Draft Pembrokeshire LBAP prepared + technical consultation complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare 12 species and habitat action plans</li> </ul>	10 completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore heathland at St. Davids Airfield (1<sup>st</sup> Phase)</li> </ul>	Successfully completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Coastal Slopes farm conservation Project</li> </ul>	Project Officer appointed, project underway
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To use NPA funds to lever at least a fourfold increase in expenditure in historic building expenditure</li> </ul>	Expenditure over 7 times initial fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide grant aid to 12 properties</li> </ul>	15 properties aided
To designate a further 3 conservation areas	Two confirmed
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 70% of footpaths open and easy to use</li> </ul>	71% open & easy to use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open additional 15 km of footpaths</li> </ul>	16 km opened
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 stiles to be replaced by kissing gate to improve accessibility on Coast Path</li> </ul>	16 stiles replaced
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open new St Davids National Park Visitor Centre</li> </ul>	Opened - visitor numbers to center doubled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot ranger project at Kiln Park Holiday Park to encourage environmental appreciation</li> </ul>	Successful - sponsorship confirmed for following year
Increase visitor numbers at Castell Henllys by 2,000 to at least 27,000	Exceeded 27,000 with a further 6,000 children on schools programme
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot Park &amp; Ride scheme in St. Davids</li> </ul>	Operated for 6 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include public transport links to Coast Path in web site</li> </ul>	Links set up
<b>PLANNING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine 65% of planning applications within 8 weeks</li> </ul>	59% achieved - DC Officer unfilled - lack of funds

**BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK**

TARGET	OUTCOME

<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Complete draft of Local Biodiversity Plan	75% completed
1. Assist Tir Gofal Applicants (Target 40)	39 Farms successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Park Wide survey of dry stone walls</li> </ul>	90% complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise and achieve 10 FA/NPA Accord targets</li> </ul>	7 targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-edit "A Guide to Management Planning for Country Parks" in conjunction with CCW</li> </ul>	Completed
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLF Programme - Drafts bids for 4 major sites</li> </ul>	2 bids drafted  1 bid approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness</li> </ul>	2 Community projects  Ty Mawr educational project maintained
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to National Park Management Plan and 6 Area Management Plans</li> </ul>	Input into NPMP,  3 Area Management Plans plus 15 site plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist CADW to complete listed buildings survey</li> </ul>	80% complete
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Phase 3 of the Upland Erosion Project</li> </ul>	700 metres of path repaired
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement climbing agreement</li> </ul>	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Visitor Payback Scheme</li> </ul>	Not established
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of education service to visiting and local schools, colleges and adult groups</li> </ul>	464 groups dealt with
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted educational fair bringing together teachers and local organisations offering educational services</li> </ul>	Completed

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise the Food Festival and Made in the National Park to promote local produce</li> </ul>	Completed and Successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop community recycling projects in conjunction with Unitary Authorities and environmental bodies</li> </ul>	Nappy Project implemented
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate Beacons Bus</li> </ul>	Range of services established
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare cycling strategy</li> </ul>	Drafted

TARGET	OUTCOME
<b>WARDENS, ESTATE WORKERS &amp; VOLUNTEERS</b>	
1. Manage guided walks programme	200 walks led
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement guided walks leaders award</li> </ul>	25 entered  5 passed (others to be assessed in 2000/2001)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement site management plans</li> </ul>	Not completed (due to lack of resources)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Management of Rights of Way network</li> </ul>	Not completed (due to lack of resources)
<b>PLANNING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree Final text of National Park Management Plan</li> </ul>	Plan Approved by NPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the process of applications is responsive, fair, open to examination, understandable, efficient and effective</li> </ul>	92% of applications were positively determined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote good design in planning and related applications, and support this with written and illustrative material where appropriate</li> </ul>	Royal Town Planning Institute Special Planning Achievement Award 1999

**PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN**

**FIRST HALF OF 2000-2001**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

<b>ANNUAL TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b> <b>6 Months</b>
<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1. Assist 60 farm enhancement schemes.	50.
● Prepare 10 new species and habitat action plans and implement 45 existing plans.	In progress.
● Publish a leaflet on bracken control.	Completed.
● Prepare 5 National Park Site Management Plans	0
● Establish 30 ha of broadleaved woodlands and bring 250 ha into management.	100 ha brought into management.
● Complete re-survey of 25 Tree Preservation Orders	10
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
● Grant aid repairs to 25 listed and historic buildings.	18 buildings grant-aided.
● Develop a range of interpretative + published material for 3 archaeological sites.	In progress.
● Excavation, survey and consolidation work at four archaeological sites	1 complete, 3 in progress
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
● Extend cycleway at Morfa Mawddach (National Park owned site)	Completed.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Upgrade and maintain 9.3 km of footpaths through the Upland Footpath Partnership (with CCW and the National Trust).</li> </ul>	5.4 km Completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build dam at Llwyn y Forwyn to comply with Reservoir Act</li> </ul>	Completed
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete major new interpretative exhibition at Betws y Coed.</li> </ul>	Completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete new Beddgelert Information Centre.</li> </ul>	Opened.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop and launch the National Park website.</li> </ul>	Launched (in Dec.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide new kitchen facilities at Plas Tan y Bwlch Environmental Study Centre.</li> </ul>	Contract let.
<b>TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase passenger use of Sherpa Bus service by 5%</li> </ul>	Figures awaited but indications are that this has not been achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appoint project officer for the Northern Snowdonia Initiative.</li> </ul>	Appointed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete 2 cycleway feasibility studies</li> </ul>	1 complete,  1 in progress

<b>ANNUAL TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
	<b>6 Months</b>
<b>PLANNING</b>	
1. Pilot Landmap in the National Park in conjunction with Gwynedd Council & CCW	In progress.

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist 35 community initiatives</li> </ul>	25 assisted

## PEMBROKSHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
	<b>6 months</b>
<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1. Launch Local Biodiversity Action Plan by September	Public launch with partners in Sept.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a further 30 Species &amp; Habitat action plans with partners</li> </ul>	20 completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring a further 30% of NPA's broadleaf woodland estate under sustainable management</li> </ul>	Target achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Coast Slopes project - 12 sites / 300 hectares</li> </ul>	10 sites / 255 hectares confirmed
Adopt Forestry Stewardship Council standard for 6 woodland management sites	3 completed
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To use NPA funds to lever at least a fourfold increase in expenditure in historic building expenditure</li> </ul>	7 fold achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish joint Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) with Cambria Archaeology</li> </ul>	Data transfer completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 1 more conservation area</li> </ul>	No progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant aid 15 historic building works</li> </ul>	9 grants confirmed so far
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete 14 Conservation Area Statements</li> </ul>	8 completed
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install 10 kissing gates</li> </ul>	6 installed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extend Japanese knotweed project from pilot to 50 sqkm</li> </ul>	Now over 50 sqkm
Organise at least 80 volunteer work days	300 volunteer days
Co-operate with Milford Haven Port Authority and others to prepare a new recreation plan for the Estuary	Plan published September
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Offer NP activity/study sessions to all 96 local schools through a MENU</li> </ul>	Initial contact made to all schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Produce at least one edition of Park Life distributed to each address in Pembrokeshire</li> </ul>	Produced & Distributed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Produce at least one edition of Park Post distributed to each Community Council in Pembrokeshire and to other relevant organisations</li> </ul>	Produced & Distributed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Best Value review of Understanding service</li> </ul>	Completion by March
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase usage of St Davids Park &amp; Ride by 10% and extend routes</li> </ul>	Increase of 50% to 7,100 and route extended to Whitesands
Maintain sponsorship for Tenby Park & Ride	£2,000 sponsorship
Greenways partnership to appoint Greenways Project Officer	Recruitment commenced - appointment by December, 2000
<b>PLANNING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Publish Deposit version of Unitary Development Plan jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council</li> </ul>	In preparation for publication May 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete Best Value review of Development Control Service</li> </ul>	Completion by March

<b>ANNUAL TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
	<b>6 Months</b>
<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1. Begin Local Biodiversity Action Plan implementation	Consultation draft completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring 100 ha woodland into management</li> </ul>	60 ha achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist Tir Gofal Applicants (target 40)</li> </ul>	15 applications in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure appropriate management of historic landscape through Tir Gofal Agreements, Development Control Advice etc</li> </ul>	6 Tir Gofal applicants, 80 consultations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend wildlife projects across park</li> </ul>	No progress (due to concentration on LBAP and lack of staff resources)
<b>CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to secure better funding through HLF, CADW and CCW Bids</li> </ul>	1 HLF bid approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase Awareness</li> </ul>	2 new Community Schemes & Ty Mawr education Project
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable Community Tourism</li> </ul>	Beacons Forum and Trust established
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Phase 4 Upland Erosion scheme</li> </ul>	1350 metres path repaired
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Visitor Pay Back Scheme in partnership with Beacons Trust</li> </ul>	Preliminary planning complete. Establishment due to take place Spring 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a series of Health Walks in conjunction with Abergavenny Hospital - cardiac unit</li> </ul>	224 attendees during the summer programme
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued provision of education service through Centres, Wardens and 7 evening classes</li> </ul>	Completed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In partnership with wildlife Trust, Powys CC and CCW secure funding for publication of PULSE bio-diversity study pack</li> </ul>	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide events programme promoting local craft and food producers</li> </ul>	Highly successful 13,000 attended generating estimated £30,000 of business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Produce trading Policy promoting the sale of sustainable souvenirs</li> </ul>	Completed
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organise the Food Festival and Made in the National Park to promote local produce</li> </ul>	Completed and Successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To support up to 4 major community projects per annum</li> </ul>	6 Community Tourism Action Groups supported
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To develop Local Agenda 21 Initiatives with at least 2 Communities</li> </ul>	Sennybridge and Trecastle established

<b>ANNUAL TARGET</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
	<b>6 Months</b>
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</b>	
1. Operate Beacons Bus and endeavour to extend interest	Successful establishment of the bike bus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop Sustainable Transport Policy</li> </ul>	No Progress
<b>WARDENS, ESTATE WORKERS &amp; VOLUNTEERS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manage Guided Walks Programme</li> </ul>	170 walks led
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consult on Open Access proposals</li> </ul>	In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue implementation of climbing agreement</li> </ul>	Pilot local access forum established
<b>PLANNING</b>	

• Publish Adopted Local Plan	Completed
• Publish National Park Management Plan	Completed
• Produce a bilingual planning application form	In progress completion by end January
• Monitor the effectiveness of Llangattock Village design Statement	Completed

## APPENDIX II

### NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR 2001/2002

Reference	Title	Type of PI
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		
NE1	Total area (Ha) of National Park managed in line with NPA conservation objectives.	Contextual
NE2(a)	Number of statutory and non-statutory natural environment consultations completed during the year in the current year.	Contextual
NE2(b)	Number of statutory and non-statutory natural environment consultations requiring a response completed within the agreed period.	Service delivery outcome.
NE3	Score against a natural environment checklist of best practice.	Quality.
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
CH1	Number of new archaeological sites or substantial revisions recommended for addition to the county based Sites and Monuments Records by the NPA during the year.	Service delivery outcome.

CH2	Number of archaeological research and conservation projects by or supported by the National Park Authority during the year.	Service delivery outcome.
CH3(a)	Number of Listed Buildings within the National Park indicated as 'At Risk'.	Contextual.
CH3(b)	Number of Listed Buildings At Risk rescued through NPA action during the year.	Service delivery outcome.
CH4(a)	Number of statutory and non-statutory cultural heritage consultations and requests for specialist advice received during the year requiring a response within the current year.	Contextual.
CH4(b)	Number of statutory and non-statutory cultural heritage consultations requiring a response completed within the agreed period.	Service delivery outcome.
CH5	Aggregate score for positive action to designate, review and improve Conservation Areas in the current year.	Service delivery outcome.
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>		
RM1	Percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use by the public.	Strategic objective
RM2	Percentage of public rights of way signposted where they leave a road.	Service delivery outcome.
RM3	Percentage of land within the National Park open for public access.	Strategic objective

Reference	Title	Type of PI

## PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYMENT

PU1	National Park Visitor Centre effectiveness rating – average percentage score.	Quality.
PU2	Number of individual contacts (for promoting understanding and enjoyment) during the year.	Service delivery outcome.
PU3	Score against a checklist of effectiveness of NPA services for promoting understanding and enjoyment.	Quality.

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

TT1	Number of public meetings, events, walks and talks held by the NPA.	Contextual
TT2	Percentage of NPA public meetings, events, walks and talks that are accessible by means of public transport.	Service delivery outcome.
TT3	Percentage of participants attending NPA public events, walks and talks that arrive by means of transport other than the car.	Strategic objective.

## RANGER AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

RV1	Total number of volunteer days on projects led and/or supported by the NPA.	Service delivery outcome.
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