

Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation

Dolphin Watch

An introduction

March 2016





www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk



@ACA_PLAS_SAC



Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau



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1. Introduction



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1.1 *Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (PLAS SAC)*

Because of the varied and unusual underwater landscapes, type of habitat, and the amazing animals and plants that live in the area, the coast and sea area around the Llŷn peninsula and north Cardigan Bay is protected as the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (PLAS SAC) – a wildlife conservation site that has earned its designation as one of the best wildlife areas in Europe (the SAC designation is made under the EC Habitats Directive which is helping implement globally agreed targets to help prevent loss of biodiversity). This large SAC encompasses the Llŷn peninsula to the north, Tremadog Bay, and the Sarnau reefs in its southern half, as well as the large estuaries along the coast of Meirionnydd and north Ceredigion.



The SAC has a Relevant Authorities Group (RAG), which consists of Natural Resources Wales, Gwynedd Council, Powys Council, Ceredigion Council, Welsh Water, Severn Trent, Snowdonia National Park Authority and Trinity House; these are organisations with a particular remit in the marine environment. Being part of the RAG supports delivery of their responsibilities to the SAC and helps promote collaborative working to meet these authorities' commitments to achieve favourable management of the SAC.

The role of the RAG is to oversee the management of the SAC and, through working as a group, identify actions and share learning and resources to manage the site and integrate this with other work/initiatives. There is a SAC Officer for the site who

facilitates the RAG, working with them to deliver aspects of SAC project work, helping ensure commitment from their authority to fulfil their duties towards the SAC, and by leading the implementation of specific management projects. The SAC also has a Liaison Group consisting of a large number of representatives from different industries and interest groups around the site. The Liaison Group acts as a forum for a wider group of interests to be involved in developing and implementing the management of the site. The RAG and the Liaison Group together provide the existing PLAS SAC management structure.

Some of the projects identified by the RAG and Liaison Group and co-ordinated by the SAC Officer include:

- Porthdinllaen Seagrass Project – addressing impacts on seagrass.
- Turning Tide Project – addressing marine litter.
- Marine Ecosystems Project – working with the fishing industry on various projects.
- Morfa Gwyllt Project – addressing issues on the Morfa Gwyllt lagoon.
- Numerous raising awareness projects such as school visits, website, social media, events etc.
- Living Coasts Living Seas Project – investigating a number of interpretation techniques that provide information and celebrate our local marine environment.



The existing PLAS SAC management structure is currently under revision by the Wales Marine Protected Areas Management Steering Group as part of a review into management area options at an all-Wales level. One of the recommendations is to manage the marine environment as geographic spatial units rather than around individual conservation designations. This is part of discussions around the need for a step change in the approach to marine management in Wales to halt the loss of biodiversity and ensure the long term viability of sustainable marine industries. This partnership approach, within an area larger than a site boundary, supports this ecosystem approach to area based management.

1.2 Cetaceans in the UK and the Llŷn Peninsula

The seas around Wales and the UK are home to a diverse range of cetacean species. In Welsh waters the two of the most common and widely distributed cetaceans is the harbour porpoise and the bottlenose dolphin. The most common is the harbour porpoise, present all year round in some areas and calves occur throughout Wales. Bottlenose dolphins are the second most frequent recorded species in Wales and can be seen almost every time of the year.

A total of 18 cetacean species have been recorded in Welsh seas over the last 3 decades (Baines & Evans, 2012) . The five most commonly reported cetaceans in Welsh waters are the harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena), bottlenose dolphin (Tusiops truncatus), short-beaked common dolphin (Delphinus delphis), Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus) and minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata).¹

Species of Cetacean	Main concentrations of sightings in PLAS SAC	Time of year
Harbour Porpoise	The south west coast of Llŷn	All year round
Bottlenose dolphin	Tremadog Bay and the North coast of Llŷn	Almost all year round

Table 1: Long-term mean sightings rates of Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphins in Wales (Woolmer & Owen, 2015)

Cardigan Bay and the waters around the Llŷn Peninsula host Britain's largest coastal bottlenose dolphin population, numbering annually somewhere between two and three hundred animals. Some occupy the region year round, with mature females giving birth to young on average every three years. Favoured sites for feeding and caring for their young occur particularly along the coast and around the estuaries (Sarn Padrig, Sarn Cynfelyn and Sarn y Bwlch). Others spend the summer there but then in autumn disperse over a wider area often going north to Anglesey, the Isle of Man and beyond, before returning in the spring. The bottlenose dolphin is a conservation feature of the PLAS SAC, as listed under the Habitats Directive, for which the SAC has been selected. Therefore the PLAS SAC is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for bottlenose dolphins. Evidence suggests that these populations are under continued threat from many factors.

These populations, like cetaceans worldwide, are under direct threat from a range of anthropogenic forces (Leeney et al. 2008). Ship strikes, climate change, habitat destruction, pollution and incidental take (or bycatch) are some of the most immediate threats in British waters (Hammond et al. 2013; Harwood, 2001).²

¹ Woolmer & Owen, 2015.

² Woolmer & Owen, 2015.

1.3 The Gwynedd Marine Code of Conduct

(i) The Llŷn Marine Ecosystems Project



The Marine Ecosystems Project is a pilot project located in Pen Llŷn and is an evolution of the work of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (PLAS SAC). The project developed from recommendations in a document formulated by the Welsh Fishermen's Association (WFA) called '*Striking the Balance*' which proposed a method of managing the sea to improve our understanding of the marine environment and promote the recovery and resilience of ecosystems without having a detrimental impact on local fishermen and communities; an approach that would also safeguard cultural and economic life and protect traditional fisheries and recreational activities. The PLAS SAC and the WFA jointly lead the project, reflecting the fact that conservation and the fishing industry identify a need to work collaboratively and cooperatively to achieve effective conservation and management of the marine environment, and emphasising the need for joint management and consultation as part of a joined up approach.



The approach taken by the project and aspirations for the project are supported in principle by recent legislative developments in Wales: The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, and the Environment Bill 2016.

(ii) Introduction to Code of Conduct

One work area of the Llŷn Marine Ecosystems Project has been to develop a new code of conduct for sea users in Gwynedd in relation to the conservation features of the PLAS SAC. The code of conduct for users of the sea in Gwynedd had dated significantly, so this aspect of the project worked to develop and distribute a new code for the county (the original code was produced in the year 2000 by the Friends of Cardigan Bay). Following the success of a similar process in Ceredigion recently, discussions were undertaken with the relevant officials and an agreement was put in place to share the same code. This has avoided duplication and will keep consistency across the bay. A new code was drafted for consultation and was issued to the relevant stakeholders and the general public.

A drop-in session was held on August the 29th, 2015, at Plas Heli, Pwllheli to discuss the draft. The draft and the drop in session were promoted on our social media sites and a copy of the draft was sent to water sports/adventure clubs, local maritime organizations, fishermen and Councillors. An invitation was extended to anyone interested to come and voice their opinions or share any suggestions about the draft, and there were 30 attendees on the day.

The new code will be distributed to everyone who's registered a powerboat or jet ski in Gwynedd and this project will investigate the possibilities regarding raising awareness and distribution of the code. The project will aspire to educate all recreational users of the importance of obeying by the code and will aim towards ensuring a haven for all wildlife in the SAC. This project aims to raise awareness of the new marine code in Gwynedd by launching the code and marketing it to the relevant audience, thus securing public buy-in. This project will also seek to work with Anglesey and Conwy councils to promote this code around the coast of North Wales and work towards an all Wales code.

See Appendix 1 for the Gwynedd Marine Code of Conduct.

1.4 Dolphin Watch in Llŷn

The development of a dolphin watch programme by the PLAS SAC, in Llŷn, will secure the added value of providing some monitoring of compliance to the voluntary code of conduct, in conjunction with gathering valuable data and filling evidence gaps in the area. This report will explore the current data gathering activities in Gwynedd and other SAC's regarding cetaceans, and will construct a project plan for launching a dolphin watch project in Llŷn.

2. Existing Cetacean Research



There are a number of organisations and individuals that study and survey cetaceans in Wales. The aim of this project is to work with other organisations in the field. Below is a summary of the work that key organisations undertake in Llŷn. Meetings have been held with each organisation to ensure effective joint working and collaboration.

2.1 Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales includes cetaceans in their monitoring programme. Bottlenose dolphins are a conservation feature of the PLAS SAC so this information will feed into the feature condition reporting to Europe. Natural Resources Wales is also a Relevant Authority for the PLAS SAC.

<http://naturalresources.wales/>

2.2 Ceredigion Council and the Cardigan Bay SAC

Bottlenose dolphins are a conservation feature of the Cardigan Bay SAC. As a relevant authority Ceredigion Council developed a code of conduct for recreational boat users. Ceredigion Council have been actively promoting the code of conduct for many years. A Dolphin Watch programme was set up to monitor recreational boat user compliance to the code of conduct. They work very closely with the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre on the Dolphin Watch scheme. The results of Dolphin Watch will direct location and effort of promoting the code the following year. An annual report is produced by the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre on behalf of Ceredigion Council. The Cardigan Bay SAC Officer is the coordinator for a number

of Dolphin Watch sites. Ceredigion Council is also a Relevant Authority for the PLAS SAC.

www.cardiganbaysac.org.uk/
www.ceredigion.gov.uk

2.3 Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre

The Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre undertakes many cetacean studies and produce a number of reports and papers. They are actively involved in the Ceredigion Dolphin Watch scheme and act as coordinator for a number of Dolphin Watch sites.

www.cbmwc.org

2.4 Sea Watch Foundation

Sea Watch Foundation is a national charity working to improve the conservation and protection of whales, dolphins and porpoises in British and Irish waters. Through their continuous programme of research and monitoring they provide invaluable information on changes to the status and distribution of cetacean populations and the condition of their habitats. They have a number of locations on and near Llŷn that they actively survey. They also support and work with a number of students on various cetacean projects.

www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk

2.5 Whales and Dolphin Conservation

Whale and Dolphin conservation is a leading global charity dedicated to the conservation and protection of whales and dolphins. They undertake this role through campaigns, advising governments, conservations projects, field research and rescue. They have conducted many surveys in Llŷn over the years.

<http://uk.whales.org>

3. Project Plan



3.1 Selecting the best possible location

A 1 kilometre section of the headland between Porth Bach and Pistyll Cim was selected as the location for evidence collection. A very popular part of the Wales Coast Path runs through this headland, and this area is positioned on the section running from Abersoch to Porth Ceiriad. This part of the path is known to have numerous sightings of dolphins throughout the year and no other official data collection is done from this location. Therefore, this location lends itself as a prime location for this project.

For the purpose of data collection and to eliminate any variables, one specific location will need to be selected before the project starts and the measurable data is collected.

Numerous visits to the site were made in order to assess possible view points for the survey work and two possible locations were short listed. This report considers every opportunity and obstacle for each location, with volunteers and officer's safety and well-being being a priority. A full risk assessment was carried out on both locations which can be seen in Appendix 3.

Both of these locations are located on the coastal path and are accessible from the kissing gate in the semi-structured car park passed Porth Tocyn Hotel (grid reference: 32182622).





Getting to the coastal path by car:

From the Stryd Fawr in Abersoch continue onto Lon Sarn Bach and carry on for about half a mile until you reach the village of Sarn Bach. Take the left turning sign posted for Porth Tocyn Hotel and follow the lane up to Bwlch Tocyn hamlet. There will be another signed turning to the Porth Tocyn hotel, take the left turning. Carry on passed the hotel and follow the unclassified road down to the kissing gate and the access to the coastal path.

Post Code - LL53 7BU



Reaching both possible locations on the coastal path:

After entering the path through the kissing gate, follow the straight path towards the headland and go through the second kissing gate.

(i) View Point 1 (grid reference: 32482611)



To reach this view point, volunteers will need to turn right instantly after entering through the second kissing gate and ascent a little bit to the highest point of this section. This area is flat and a reasonable distance from the cliff edge, therefor offers minimal possible risks to volunteers or officers. Another benefit of this section is the short walking distance (5-10 minutes waling from the car park) which would be graded as an easy walk. This could possibly attract more volunteers, and would be accessible for most walkers of nearly all abilities.

Although this location has a lot of benefits in the context of the general volunteer, the location is significantly further than location 2 from the sea, and does not offer the same panoramic view of the marine area.

(ii) View Point 2 (grid reference: 32612564)



Location 2 requires a longer walk (20 minutes approx.) to reach the view point. After the second kissing gate, follow the coastal path for approximately half a kilometre until you reach a more open piece of headland and the path bares right. Location 2 is located on a rock near the edge of the cliff.





This location does offer a much better view of the area being surveyed than location 1, even without binoculars or viewing equipment, which is suitable for inexperienced volunteers or beginners.

3.2 Trial Survey

A trial survey was conducted following the exact format as the Ceredigion Dolphin Watch Program. The participants were three officers from the Biodiversity Unit of Gwynedd Council, and one experienced wildlife enthusiast. All the relevant forms were filled and all data collected. The equipment included binoculars and telescopes, together with the naked eye. Please see appendix 4 for an example recording sheet.

3.3 Risk Assessment

As mentioned in section 3.1 a full risk assessment was carried out on both locations and can be seen in appendix 2. The main risks have been drawn out of the assessment and are highlighted below, together with other valuable and necessary information for volunteers participating. This information will be given to volunteers prior to carrying out a survey on the site.

(i) Example of information given out to volunteer's prior carrying out a survey

Staying safe is your own responsibility - please look after yourself and other members of your group. As well as following the Countryside Code, when you are walking on the coastal path remember:

- Let someone know where you are going and what time you are likely to be back - mobile phone reception is patchy on the coast (the dolphin watch slots will be two hours, but the walking distance to the location and the car journey there will need to be considered)
- Take something to eat and drink with you
- Informal paths leading to beaches can be dangerous and are best avoided
- Keep to the path/location stated and stay away from cliff edges - please follow advisory signs and waymarks.

Whilst it is tempting to go close to cliff edges to peer over you should stay back from them:

- as a slip or trip could be fatal
- some cliffs overhang or are unstable and this is not always obvious
- take particular care when the grass is short, as when wet it can be very slippery



Dress sensibly for the terrain and weather - wear suitable clothing and footwear and be ready for possible changes in the weather.

- Check the weather forecast before you set out
- Protect yourself from the sun – sea breezes can hide its strength
- On the coast. mist, fog and high winds are more likely and can be more hazardous
- Wear comfortable footwear with a good grip
- Take waterproofs and extra clothing, especially in cold weather
- Be aware that the surface of the Coast Path varies and will generally be more natural and more uneven away from car parks, towns and villages.

To help the emergency services locate you quickly they need to know where you are. Take the grid reference of the view point with you so you will be able to accurately report your position.

Useful information for participants:

In an emergency dial 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard.

Grid reference of locations – 32482611/32612564

Closest Doctor Surgery - Abersoch Surgery, Lon Sarn Bach, Abersoch, LL53 7EH. Tel: 01758 712070.

Closest Public Toilets - Abersoch village by the bridge (all year)
Abersoch Golf Club (seasonal, 1st of April until October the 31st).



3.4 *How the sessions work*

This report suggests trialling a pilot study surveying 9 two hour slots over the period of three days. The busiest boating days in Abersoch over the summer months are Saturdays and Sundays. The report also advises to have two volunteers per slots, or one volunteer accompanied by another individual. This would eliminate risks of lone working.

The initial slots should take place as follows:

11:00 – 13:00, 13:00 – 15:00, 15:00 – 17:00 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Filling these slots would require at least 18 volunteers (this having two individuals at a time). The amount of slots/days could be re-assessed after the number of volunteers willing to participate is known. Possible extensions or cut backs could be implemented depending on the amount of volunteers.

There will be two recording forms: a data form and a map sheet. Information on weather, boat encounters and cetacean behaviour will be recorded on a data form. The location of dolphin or porpoise groups, group size and activity when first seen will be marked on a map, one map for each 15 minutes surveyed. The use of maps will provide information on how dolphins use various parts of each site, and where most encounters with boats occur. More detailed information on how boat users behave around dolphins will also be collected, and referred directly to the Gwynedd Code of Conduct.

Data sheet records will include:

- The time that the 15-minute interval begins
- The weather conditions – general, wind & sea state
- Information on the closest boat to dolphins or porpoises:
- The type of vessel
- Vessel range from the nearest cetacean
- Total number of boats within 300 m of these cetaceans

Map sheet records will include:

- The location of dolphin and porpoise groups at the start of each 15 min interval (or when first seen)
- The total number of animals in each group (i.e. including calves)
- The number of calves present
- The current activity of the group.

An example data sheet and map sheet can be seen in Appendix 4.

Before any survey work commences, this report would advise for all the volunteers to be taken to the site and to be fully briefed on the surveying requirements (see appendix 5 for an example of guidance notes for data forms). The volunteers should also be briefed on any risk reducing/elimination measures discussed in the risk assessment, and given a formal disclaimer to sign.

3.5 Gathering Volunteers

The Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC and its working groups have undertaken an active approach to engaging with partners and the general public. Numerous techniques have been practiced to raise awareness and to establish projects in the area. Relevant partners should be used to distribute information regarding the project and current volunteers should be approached. There should be an opportunity for volunteers to acquire any information regarding the dolphin watch project at any raising awareness days that the PLAS SAC or working groups attend.

Galwad Cynnar on BBC Radio Cymru should be approached as the programme is very much nature and wildlife driven and a good platform to attract people interested in such a project.

The project should release information regarding the dolphin watch to the press and an article should be written for local newspapers, Llanw Llŷn, Abersoch Sensation, and the Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald.

The PLAS SAC and its working groups take a very active approach and are demonstrating a strong presence on social media sites. Information is posted regularly about any developments and other relevant information, of interest to followers, is posted and shared. The social media sites have substantially gained followers and the pages are interacting on a regular basis with the public. This quick and dynamic technique has proven to be incredibly effective and the public are positively engaging. The SAC is digitally collaborating with partners in order to share information to a wider audience and this has proven to be extremely effective with more and more people engaging and visiting the sites. Digital partners include:

- Llŷn Ecomuseum
- The National Trust
- Wales Coast Path
- NRW
- Project Seagrass
- MCS
- Llŷn Coastal Bus

The SAC has already started posting information regarding a possible dolphin watch project in Llyn and the response has been highly positive. This should continue, and options regarding specific Facebook groups or forums for dolphin watch volunteers should be explored.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Gwynedd Marine Code of Conduct

Appendix 2 – Web links to more information on cetacean research

Appendix 3 – Full risk assessment

Appendix 4 – Recording Sheet



Gwynedd Marine Code

In general keep a good look out and keep your distance. Do not approach marine mammals, let them come to you. Please operate all boats with care and attention for the safety of occupants and respect for all other sea users.

Dolphins, Porpoises & Seals

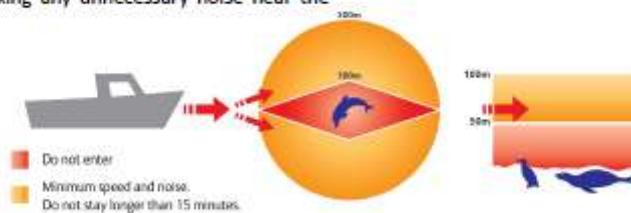
If these creatures are encountered at sea please:

- Slow down gradually to minimum speed. Do not make sudden changes in speed or course.
- Do not steer directly towards them or approach within 100m.
- Do not attempt to touch, feed or swim with them.
- Take extra care to avoid disturbing animals with young.
- Do not approach seals resting on the shore, and do not enter sea caves during the pupping season (1st August to 31st October).
- Do not discard litter or fishing tackle at sea.
- Avoid making any unnecessary noise near the animals.

This code applies to all recreational vessels including motor boats, yachts, dinghies, personal watercraft, kayaks and canoes. Always comply with requests from the local patrol boats and be aware of speed restrictions around bathing beaches and wildlife sites.

Birds

- Keep out from cliffs in the breeding season (1st March – 31st July).
- Avoid making any unnecessary noise close to cliffs.
- Keep clear of groups of birds resting or feeding on the sea.



Note that Gwynedd Harbourmasters and Launch Control Officers are authorised to withdraw launching and/or mooring permits from vessels and individuals not observing local regulations, byelaws or the Gwynedd Marine Code. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of any protected species (such as dolphins) is a criminal offence.



Appendix 2 - Web links to more information on cetacean research

<http://naturalresources.wales/>

www.cardiganbaysac.org.uk/

www.ceredigion.gov.uk

www.cbmwc.org

www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk

<http://uk.whales.org>

Appendix 3 – Full risk assessment

Adran Rheoleiddio
Regulatory Directorate



Dolphin Watch – Volunteers Survey work on the Coastal Path							
Identification of hazard	Consequences	To Whom	Severity	Assessment Likelihood	Risk Factor	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Slips trips and falls whilst using Path furniture (gates, benches, bridges, steps, stiles (timber & masonry))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, head injury . Drowning Damage to property 	Volunteers/staff	3	D	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment are monitored by staff at regular intervals and findings recorded and acted upon Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting 	40
Use of roads, pavements, urban areas, car parks, bollards, height barriers and rural lanes/minor roads. Path user mixing with Vehicles and machinery (non-agricultural) used by local residents others, contractors (including illegal access to work sites.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken limbs/bones head injury Damage to property Death 	Volunteers/staff	2	D	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liase with other unit within council in particular the transportation/ highways units 	2E
Agricultural practices on public paths including use of machinery and other operations for example crop spraying/moving heavy lifting gear etc. , resulting in path user having collision with machinery and/or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken limbs/bones, head injury Poison Death Diseases such as cancer 	Volunteers/staff	2	D	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to liase with Coastal Path Officer regularly, to get updated on any closures, or agricultural practices being carried out on the path 	2E

Being exposed to chemicals,							
Cliffs and steep slopes (climbing, scrambling above deep water, landslides,) falling-including slips trips and falls (fatal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, Dead injury . Drowning Death 	Volunteers/staff	2	C	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing all volunteers of the dangers of the cliffs and steep slopes and urge them not to venture towards them. 	3E
Paths surface (uneven surface, adverse camber pot holes , rabbit holes, resulting in path user having slips trips or falls (non-fatal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken bones grazed skin, Head injury 	Volunteers/staff	4	D	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting 	40
Vegetation (park side, tripping, cuts, poisonous plants, for example giant hogweed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, Burning skin Diseases such as cancer Poisoning 	Volunteers/staff	4	B	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting 	40
Overhanging Vegetation within woodland minor/young trees/saplings, <2.5m max height, falling small deadwood branches colliding with path user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including grazed skin head injury Damage to property 	Volunteers/staff	4	D	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting especially after an event such as a storm, high wind-speeds, fires etc. 	40
Overhanging Vegetation within woodland large branches falling and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, 	Volunteers/staff	3	D	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting especially after an event such as a storm, high 	3E

colliding with path user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head injury • Death • Damage to property 					High	wind-speeds, fires etc.	
Farm animals including bulls, cows with calves at feet, bullocks, stags and heifers, sheep and rare breed deer, pigs, resulting in trampling/biting generally attacking path user	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, • Head injury • Death 	Volunteers/staff	2	C		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting especially after an event such as a storm, high wind-speeds, fires etc. • Staff to educate volunteers via countryside codes etc. etc., dangerous of walking with a dog through farmland. 	2D
Rivers, sea canals open ditches, lakes and other forms of water shallow and deep, also water structures such as sea defences, weirs, viaducts including mudflats and reed beds. Resulting in path user falling into or become entrapped in one of the above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin • Hypothermia • Drowning • Death 	Volunteers/staff	2	D		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting especially after an event such as a storm, high wind-speeds, fires etc. 	2E
Rubbish / fly tipping causing path user to interact with dangerous substances hazardous waste product and broken glass and metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury including broken bones, grazed skin, • Burning skin • Diseases • Poisoning 	Volunteers/staff	3	E		Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to liaise with other unit within the council for example public protection, • Report any findings of fly tipping so that danger is removed as soon as possible 	3E
Fires/smokes including wild fires and smoke from industrial chimneys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury including burns, • Death • Inhalation • Damage to property 	Volunteers/staff	2	D		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Coastal Path Officers prior to volunteers visiting 	3E

Intimidating people including landowners/members of public on public paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Damage to property • Verbal abuse • Physical abuse resulting in personal injury 	Volunteers/staff	3	C		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good working practice for Staff Lone-working, visiting known intimidating people with another team member • Liaise with HSE dept. on intimidating people's register list before making initial site visit • Staff to discuss site visit to unknown properties with local councillors and/or community council to gain local knowledge. 	3E
Dogs/faeces and attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury including broken bones, bites, • Diseases such as Toxoplasma 	Volunteers/staff	3	D		Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to liaise with other unit within the council for example public protection's dog unit, • Report any findings of fly tipping and/or dangerous dogs to the relevant officer so that danger is removed as soon as possible. 	3E

Notes:		OVERALL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTABLE	
ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT BY: Gavin Glyn		DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 14 - 03 - 18	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

