

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 2 March 2015

GOWER AONB RANGER REPORT – Q3 Updated - 2014-15

Work Area No.	Gower Ranger Objective(s)	Actions to achieve objectives – including dates to be achieved by	Reporting mechanism	Report
<p>1 – Awareness raising (not targeted)</p>	<p>49.1 Increase contact with the public (residents and visitors) 'on the ground'.</p> <p>49.2 Provide informal opportunities to increase understanding and awareness of the AONB, both on site and off, through media including social media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to AONB web-pages, including use of social media. Social media to be updated weekly. • Provide advice and information on site as requested and especially at key sites such as Port Eynon/ Horton and Pennard Valley/ Three Cliffs by 31st March 2015. • Contribute at least 1 article to the Annual AONB newsletter and produce at least 2 press releases relating to the work of the AONB Ranger by 31st March 2015. • Distribute leaflets and AONB Newsletter to main outlets (list required) and TIC's in Swansea and Mumbles by 31st March 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate link to page or blog when it goes live. Report on progress to GRLG. • Keep a record of advice provided, to be provided upon request. Report on progress to GRLG. • Provide copy of AONB newsletter and any press releases when produced (circulate draft for comment as well). • Keep a record of leaflet/ newsletter deliveries to be provided upon request. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinterest page has been updated, however recurrent IT problems currently prevent regular updates. NT Facebook and Twitter are including AONB Rangers work (joint working) and input is highlighted. Working to resolve IT problems with CapGemini, particularly with laptop power supply. Problems accessing Pinterest, and loading photos continuing – currently having log-in problems. • Providing information on request - 4 people advised about The Dingle during conversation at Caswell – 4 July. Continuing to provide information as and when opportunity arises. Gower College have had guided walks around the Dingle and up to the chapel. Other members of the public have also been given information and advice around Bishopswood LNR. • A member of the public phoned to complain about cyclists using the Wales Coast Path, and others have contacted the Ranger about dogs causing a nuisance at Pennard Castle. Through his contacts, the Ranger was able to identify the owner concerned, and has since spoken to them. • Contributed to production of AONB Newsletter (produced in time for Gower Show – end of July 2014). • Reynoldston Community Newsletter included an article on AONB Ranger and his role, received a number of phone calls reporting issues as a result. • Ongoing - leaflets provided for Mumbles TIC - 2 July 2014. Further distribution after production of Newsletter, as before. Newsletter, general leaflets, events booklet and walks leaflets distributed as requested to outlets across Gower.
<p>2 – Guided walks & events (targeted awareness raising)</p>	<p>49.3 Provide structured opportunities for local residents (including schools) and visitors to engage with the AONB and learn about issues and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to delivery of Gower Walking Festival June 2015 – development and lead/support 3 walks. • Attend Gower Show on 3rd August 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Gower Walking Festival to GRLG and as part of standard claim reporting to NRW. • Report on Gower Show to GRLG and as part of standard claim reporting to NRW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report from Gower Walking Festival to date. Requesting meeting with new GWF team to discuss AONB Team contribution for 2015. • Guided Walk for St. Madoc's Centre to Pwll Du on 12th September, 20 people in group. Director of Arocha (international Christian conservation charity) was a member of the group. • Gower College group given guided walk around Bishopswood – the group will be coming out with the AONB Ranger as volunteers on a regular basis. • AONB Team attended Gower Show - sharing GLP tent. Tent was good, but visitor engagement was low.

<p>3. Visitor Management</p> <p>Note – during the period April to September this is to be the key focus for the ranger and is more important than any other element of the programme</p>	<p>4.1 Raise awareness of impact of anti-social behaviour on the special qualities of Gower.</p> <p>4.2 Tackle antisocial behaviour (which impacts upon the special qualities of Gower) at specific locations.</p> <p>4.3 Monitor and manage key visitor sites to ensure that visitors are able to enjoy the special qualities of Gower.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend all Gower Safe Partnership meetings and deliver agreed actions relating to patrolling key sites. E.g. agreed patrol rota and delivering presentations within schools as part of the Gower safe partnership. Inspect key visitor sites quarterly completing a formal checklist and ensuring that practical work identified is carried out. Additional informal inspections to be carried out as appropriate. In addition to the Gowersafe rota, Patrol Port Eynon, Horton and Pennard Valley as least as often as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly between Sept & April; Weekly May – June; Twice weekly July – August Carry out Fire Survey Patrols, main focus on inland commons. Collate weekly map showing burn sites during March – May 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate notes/ minutes/actions from Gower Safe meetings to GRLG and keep a record (including map of geographical locations) of illegal camping/ fire sites and anti-social activities encountered. Attend all agreed rota shifts and presentation events. If, for valid reasons, attendance is not possible ensure Gower Safe partners are notified and, wherever possible (i.e. unless a last minute emergency) cover is provided. Submit quarterly inspection sheets to GRLG along with a list of completed actions and programmed actions. Keep a record (including a map of geographical locations) of illegal camping/fire sites and anti-social activities encountered. Keep a record (including a map of geographical locations) of burn sites and date recorded. Provide a report as an appendix to Annual Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GowerSafe patrol attended on 11 July 2014. No problems.. Patrol on 22nd August was cancelled by Police, due to pressure on officers. GowerSafe patrols for 2014 have now finished – a meeting to wind up and plan for 2015 is needed. Inspections carried out as programmed. Inspection sheets for July, October & January completed. Patrols of sites is being carried out to programme, records of sites are being kept. 15 reports have been fed back to the 101 phone number over the summer – several of these included multiple sites, with the good weather over the first half of the summer tempting many people out. Currently (February 2015) quiet. Wildfire Officer Wales (Richard Hammond) is providing information about all wildfires on Gower. AONB Ranger will collate this and provide a record in an agreed format for NRW - agreed with Glyn Lloyd-Jones.
<p>4. Practical Countryside Management</p>	<p>1.1 Carry out practical countryside management tasks to support management plans (including Swansea LBAP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Ranger Job Sheets to assist programming of practical works. Ensure feedback is provided to those partners submitting the sheets within 10 working days of receipt of the proforma. Projects to be delivered will be determined by the AONB Officer and AONB Ranger. By 31st March 2015, undertake practical countryside management works as determined through Ranger Job Sheet. During the months April – September these are to take place on no more than 2 days per week and not on any day where a joint patrol has been agreed as part of Gowersafe. Works can take place on any agreed sites across Gower and can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCS owned sites; Any GRLG partner owned sites e.g. NT, WTSWW, NRW; Third party sites (SSSI's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply copy of proforma to GRLG partners. Report to GRLG on numbers received, feedback times and numbers delivered. Report to each GRLG on progress with targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger Job Sheets being used, and records kept as agreed. 1 feedback note has been received to date. Report provided for GRLG (16 July 2014) – next GRLG meeting 8 October 2014. A wide variety of groups and individuals have volunteered with the Ranger, They have picked litter, cut and raked bracken, pulled ragwort, erected benches and a goat seesaw, and cleared paths. Sites worked include Coeden Fach, Bishopswood, Llanmadoc, Whiteford, Gower Heritage Centre, and CHAPS (Three Crosses). HSBC volunteers continue to come out on a regular basis – clearing view point at Caswell, also working with CHAPS (moving stone and timber, painting the centre, building keyhole gardens, constructing a firepit and benches). Work at Bishopswood includes building a camera obscura, clearing paths, clearing litter and removing fallen trees from paths. At Coeden Fach, work has included adding fresh topsoil, and clearing scrub. Clearing ragwort from Pwll Dw Head, on SSSI site. Constructed goat see-saw at Gower Heritage Centre. Bracken clearance at St Madocs. Starfish survey, at Worms Head causeway, with Judith Oakley.

5. Volunteer Resource Development	<p>1.1 Carry out practical countryside management tasks to support management plans (including Swansea LBAP).</p> <p>1.2 Provide opportunities for volunteering in support of management plans (including Swansea LBAP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the corporate volunteer model developed with HSBC across the Swansea area and investigate demand for further developing this. Use the work proforma agreed in work area 4 to plan work for volunteers on sites across Gower – required if Gower Ranger is supervising the group and therefore leading the task, not required if group has been 'handed over'. Ranger will not generally attend once groups have been handed over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to each GRLG on progress with targets. Report on progress to GRLG. Maintain records of volunteer hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSBC group is going well, with regular workdays. Last HSBC group cleared viewpoint at west side of Bishopswood LNR. HSBC groups continue to come out and work with the Ranger – a variety of work is being undertaken across the AONB. Enquiries from Nationwide (similar set up as HSBC), looking to bring out a regular group. Also a group from Gower College. Ranger Job Sheets are in use – see Job Sheet Summary for details.
6. Governance	<p>Delivery of AR3 – support effective governance arrangements for the management of the AONB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to quarterly GRLG on work programme. Produce written reports for the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group. Produce an illustrated Annual Report for the period 1st April – 31st March. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend GRLG, provide a written report on the quarter's activities against the work areas in this programme as well as evidence as listed above. Input into development of work programme. Provide a written report for each Gower AONB Partnership Group meeting. Provide a draft Annual Report for comment with each End of Year/Final claim to NRW. A final report is to be provided by 1st July 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger attended GRLG meeting on 16th July and 8th October 2014, next meeting due 24th February 2015. in progress. Annual Report for 2013/14 provided by agreed deadline.

Huw Lloyd,
AONB Ranger,
18th February 2015