



**Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**  
**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021**  
**Update – Gower AONB Management Plan**

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The Gower AONB Management Plan was adopted by Swansea Council in March 2017. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires the plan to be reviewed every five years.

To oversee the preparation of the revised management plan, the AONB Partnership Steering Group established a Management Plan sub-group in 2019. The sub-group last met in January 2020, and established a review process and timeline. The sub-group were due to report back to the main group in the March 2020 meeting; however that meeting was abandoned due to Covid-19 and work on the management plan was suspended due to other pressures on both sub-group members and officers.

As of January 2020, the steering group comprised:

- Cllr Paul Lloyd
- Cllr Lynda James
- Paul Thornton
- Natural Resources Wales (Hamish Osborn/Daron Herbert)
- Joanne Gooding – Llanrhidian Lower CC
- Gordon Howe
- Swansea Council Natural Environment Officers – Mike Scott, Chris Lindley & Paul Meller

The AONB Team are now in a position to resume work on the revised management plan. The Steering group are asked to discuss resuming this work and review the membership of the sub-group.

Table 1 on the next page outlines the process and outputs required to get an adopted, reviewed management plan. The table does not cover all the specific requirements of the process, but gives a broad idea of what is required and where the sub-group's main activities would be. Two years are required to factor in statutory and public consultation periods and Welsh translation of the draft and final Plans.

**Chris Lindley - Gower AONB Team Leader**

**8 March 2021**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2021</b>			
<b>March</b>	Formal notification to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) of intention to review the AONB management plan	Letter	Required under S.90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
<b>March-May</b>	Prepare State of the AONB report	State of the AONB Report	Sub-group approval of documents
	Prepare Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping	SEA Scoping Report	
<b>June-July</b>	Scoping consultation period		Consultation with NRW and Cadw required under SEA Regulations
<b>August-November</b>	Preparation of draft AONB Management Plan	Draft Management Plan	Sub-group approval of draft Plan
<b>December</b>	AONB Partnership Meeting	Approved draft Management Plan	Partnership approval of draft plan
<b>2022</b>			
<b>January - February</b>	Prepare public consultation on draft Management Plan and SEA Report	Council/Planning Committee approval	Council approval for public consultation required.
<b>March - June</b>	Public consultation period		
<b>July-November</b>	Review of consultation feedback and proposed changes	Consultation Report and Final Management Plan	Sub-group approval of final Management Plan
<b>December</b>	AONB Partnership meeting	Approval	Partnership approval of final Management Plan
<b>2023</b>			
<b>January-February</b>	Preparation of Council papers		
<b>March</b>	Council Meeting	Formal adoption by Swansea Council	