

Protected Areas Committee

Annex 1

Examples of specific 'Protected Area' issues that we will be required to develop strategy, corporate positions and/or support on:

- Strategy for selection, designation and protection of SSSIs and on the application of appropriate management mechanisms, under sections 27AA to 34 of [the 1981 Act][the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981]¹, and sections 15 and 15A of [the 1968 Act][the Countryside Act 1968].
- Input to the selection and designation of National Parks (subject to confirmation by the Minister) and to keeping under review progress made in accomplishing the statutory purposes of National Parks, under Part 2 of [the 1949 Act][the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949], sections 41A to 45 of [the 1981 Act][the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981], and section 8 and Part 3 of the Environment Act 1995. There may also be proposals to amend the boundaries of National Parks, review their Statutory Functions and their planning functions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- Establishment management and disposal of National Nature Reserves [and Marine Nature Reserves²] under Part 3 of [the 1949 Act][the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949], sections 34A to 37 of [the 1981 Act][the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981], and paragraph 1A of the Schedule to the NRBW (Establishment) Order 2012.
- Designating Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and input to the outstanding commitment to carry out a strategic review of landscape quality in Wales, the role of AONBs in conserving it, and the boundaries of AONBs under Part 4 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, [the 1949 Act][the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949], as applied by the 2000 Act, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Selection, designation and protection of European sites and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- Designation of marine conservation zones under Part 5 of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and input to the Welsh Government review of how Marine Conservation Zones are identified and designated

¹ Note, all references to legislation are to that legislation as amended and in force on 27 June 2013.

² Skomer is still an MNR until MCZs are designated. The designation process currently awaits formal consultation by Welsh Ministers. Accordingly, NRW's responsibilities in relation to Marine Nature Reserves still apply.]

- UK and Wales reviews of how European Directives are interpreted in law in Wales, under articles 10 to 10C of the NRBW (Establishment) Order 2012.
- [query whether this committee should also discharge the duty under s.74 of CRow Act 2000 to assist Welsh Ministers in their duty to maintain lists of habitats for protection under the Rio biodiversity Convention 1992, as many of those habitats will also de facto need to be protected areas?]

Glossary:

'the 1949 Act' means the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949,
'the 1968 Act' means the Countryside Act 1968, and
'the 1981 Act' means the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.