



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government

Consultation on a proposal for regulations required by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and four guidance documents

Annex 3

**Draft**

***Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales***

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 was enacted to make important improvements to the existing systems for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation, new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics. Taken together, these will support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.

This draft document has been published as part of a twelve-week consultation on a proposal for regulations and various guidance documents linked to the implementation of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. It will close on 13 January 2017. The consultation document, the response form and all of the associated draft guidance documents are available from the Welsh Government's consultation web pages (<https://consultations.gov.wales/>).

This document has been prepared alongside a revised chapter 6, 'The Historic Environment', of *Planning Policy Wales* and the new *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. It can profitably be read in conjunction with them.

A public consultation on chapter 6 of *Planning Policy Wales* closed on 13 June 2016. The chapter is still available on the consultation web page (<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/proposed-changes-planning-policy-wales-chapter-6-historic-environment>) and any citations of *Planning Policy Wales* in the current document refer to this version. A final version of chapter 6, incorporating any changes arising from the consultation, will be published later this year.

A public consultation on *Technical Advice Note 24* closed on 3 October 2016 and the analysis of the responses has begun. *Technical Advice Note 24* is still available on the consultation web page (<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/proposed-technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment>) and any citations of *Technical Advice Note 24* in the current document refer to this version. A final version of the technical advice note, incorporating any changes arising from the consultation, is expected in spring 2017.

19 October 2016

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

19 October 2016

*DRAFT*

Managing Change to Registered  
Historic Parks and Gardens in  
Wales

## **Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales**

### **Statement of Purpose**

*Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales* supplements *Planning Policy Wales* — Chapter 6: The Historic Environment and *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*.

*Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales* sets out general principles to follow when considering changes that may have an impact on registered historic parks and gardens. It explains the status of the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales and its place in the planning system, including the roles and responsibilities of owners, local planning authorities, amenity societies and the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw). Although the register is statutory, registration does not introduce any new consent regimes.

This best-practice guide is aimed principally at owners of registered historic parks and gardens, and agents acting on their behalf, to help them understand the implications of owning a registered historic park or garden and managing changes that affect it. It should also help owners and agents take account of Cadw's *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales (Conservation Principles)* to achieve high-quality sensitive change.

*Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales* can also be used by owners and managers as a best-practice guide to caring for registered sites. The principles and practices are also applicable to all historic parks and gardens in Wales, whether or not they are registered.

Decision-making authorities should also use this guidance alongside *Planning Policy Wales* — Chapter 6: The Historic Environment, *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* and *Conservation Principles* when considering the impact of individual planning applications on registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings.

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### **Fast Facts**

- A good understanding of the significance of your registered historic park or garden can help inform your proposals for change so that you retain what is special about it.
- Registered historic parks and gardens are a finite resource to cherish and protect for future generations.
- Change may be desirable or necessary, but needs to be well managed.
- Understanding your registered historic park or garden can help you to minimise any harm and maximise the benefits of change to conserve and enhance it.
- You may have to adapt the management of your registered historic park or garden to the effects of unavoidable change, such as the impacts of climate change.

### **Introduction**

Historic parks and gardens are part of Wales's national identity. They enrich the texture and pattern of our landscapes and form a valuable record of social, cultural and economic change. Many offer outstanding conservation value for wildlife as well as opportunities for public recreation, both of which contribute to the well-being of local communities and to our economy through tourism. As a source of enjoyment and learning, and a valuable network of green spaces, our historic parks and gardens play an important role in building a healthier and greener Wales.

The [Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) makes it a statutory duty for the Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain a register of historic parks and gardens in Wales. This means that not only is your registered historic park or garden important to you, but it is also important to your local community and to the cultural heritage of Wales.

Statutory registration does not introduce any new consent regimes. Registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings, will continue to be protected through the planning system. This means that local planning authorities consider the heritage significance of registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings, when preparing local development plans and when making planning decisions.

Registration however is not a barrier to change. Although your registered historic park or garden is a valuable asset that cannot be replaced, it has probably already changed over time, and you may need to make further changes to it. Conservation is about the careful management of change. This means finding the best way to protect and enhance the special qualities of your registered historic park or garden so that present and future generations can appreciate and enjoy it.

### **1. Protecting Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales**

Historic parks and gardens are a fragile and finite resource that can be easily damaged or lost. It is important to raise awareness of their significance and to encourage those involved in their management to treat them as valuable and

distinctive places. This includes owners, local planning authorities and the Welsh Government.

### 1.1 What is the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales?

The Welsh Ministers have a statutory duty to compile and maintain a comprehensive register of historic parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales. In practice, we — the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw) — carry out these duties on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. Sites can be added or removed from the register and site entries can be amended. The information in the register provides the basis for the sustainable management of change, chiefly through the planning system.

The register of historic parks and gardens in Wales was first published in six county volumes between 1994 and 2002 as part of the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*. A supplementary register of 14 additional sites was published in 2007. Since that date, new entries have been identified and there are now nearly 400 sites on the register.

Sites on the register span in date from the medieval period to the mid-twentieth century. Diverse in style, they range from medieval deer parks, formal parks and landscape parks, through to model farms, hospital and asylum landscapes, cemeteries, town gardens and public parks. You can find a good introduction to the chronological history of parks and gardens in Wales in Elisabeth Whittle's *Historic Gardens of Wales* (1992).

Although country estates make up a large part of the register, the common thread that unites all registered historic parks and gardens is their outstanding value to Wales. Each is a unique source of information about the past: all registered historic parks and gardens have their own story. They may contain valuable evidence about how and when they were created, how they were used, and how they have changed over time.

Up-to-date information on all registered historic parks and gardens is available in Cof Cymru — Cadw's online record of the historic assets of Wales.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 What are the Criteria for Registration?

Historic parks and gardens are of special historic interest when they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- illustrate some particular aspect of the history of gardens, parks, designed grounds, designed ornamental landscapes and places of recreation, or the history of gardening, ornamental landscaping or horticulture
- have significant historic associations (for example, with a particular person or event)

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<sup>1</sup> Cof Cymru — <http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>  
Registered historic parks and gardens will be added to Cof Cymru during 2017

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- have a group value with buildings or other land and the group value is of historic interest, for example, they may provide a historic setting for a building of historic interest.

Registered historic parks or gardens can be:

- gardens
- parks
- designed grounds
- designed ornamental landscapes
- places of recreation

Occasionally, registration may include adjacent or contiguous buildings, water, or land.

Each register entry has a map that indicates the extent of the garden or park, and identifies significant views (see section 2.3.2). The boundary defines the overall area considered to be of significance and is based on our research. Current land ownership does not have a bearing on defining the boundary. We use historical documents and maps together with evidence collected during fieldwork to define the boundary of a garden or park. Sometimes, features such as walls and gates provide a clear indication of where a boundary can be drawn. In other circumstances, where the evidence is less clear, we use professional judgment to determine the most logical line of the boundary.

Registered historic parks or gardens are graded in a system similar to that used for listed buildings (I, II\*, II). Grades indicate the following qualities:

Grade I	parks and gardens which, by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together, make them of exceptional interest
Grade II*	parks and gardens which, by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together, make them of great quality
Grade II	parks and gardens which, by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together, make them of special interest.

### **1.3 How are Historic Parks and Gardens Added to the Register?**

We can add new sites to the register at any time providing they meet the criteria for registration described in section 1.2. Sites can be identified in a number of ways, including through our own research and through suggestions from local planning authorities, other heritage organisations, members of the public and owners of historic parks and gardens. We welcome nominations for the register, but we do need information which demonstrates that sites meet the criteria for registration.

Once we are satisfied that a historic park or garden meets the criteria, we will normally consult owners and occupiers of the site, together with the local planning authority and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, before registration takes place.

The input of landowners and managers who know the site well is often invaluable to our understanding of its significance. It also gives us the opportunity to explain fully the implications of registration and answer any questions that arise. We will therefore make every effort to consult all owners and occupiers, but this may not always be possible especially for large sites with multiple owners.

Occasionally, if a historic park or garden is in danger, we may not be able to consult fully before registration but we will make sure that the owner is informed as soon as possible.

### **1.4 Can I Appeal or Ask for a Review?**

We will consider appeals about decisions to register historic parks and gardens and review existing registrations, including grade. For us to be able to consider an appeal or review, you must either demonstrate that a mistake has been made during the registration process or present new information which shows that the site, or part of it, does not meet the criteria for registration or the grade assigned. Before writing to us it is a good idea to get advice from an expert who has specialist knowledge about the registration of historic parks and gardens.

### **1.5 Does Inclusion on the Register Restrict What I Can Do?**

Unlike listing or scheduling, registration does not impose any additional consent regime and we are not usually involved in the day-to-day management and maintenance of registered historic parks and gardens. Instead, they are protected chiefly through the planning system.

Local planning authorities should protect and conserve registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings. To do this, they should develop policies that will contribute to their protection and enhancement in their local development plans; for example, a policy might state that development proposals which affect registered historic parks or gardens shall preserve, or where appropriate, enhance them. When local planning authorities are determining planning applications, the effect of a proposed development on a registered historic park or garden, or its setting, should be a material consideration. For more information, see *Planning Policy Wales*, Chapter 6 — The Historic Environment, paragraphs 6.4.9 and 6.5.24.

The local planning authority must consult us on planning applications affecting registered historic parks and gardens, or their settings.

Protection is not intended to prevent change but, instead, to highlight the significance of the registered historic park or garden so that it can be taken into account during plan making and development decisions.

Before preparing a planning application, you should consider the impact of the proposed development on the registered historic park or garden, and its setting, including significant views. You will need to provide the local planning authority with sufficient, but proportionate, information to allow the assessment of the likely impact of your proposals. It is important to think about your long-term plans for the site so that you avoid piecemeal or ad hoc development, which over time can

damage its historic character. You might also want to consider enhancing the site through the removal of inappropriate structures.

We recommend that you hold pre-application discussions with the local authority planning officer and conservation officer. The local planning authority can invite us to advise on your proposed development so that it does not have an adverse impact on the registered park and garden. When you submit an application for development which is likely to have an impact on a registered historic park or garden, or its setting, we recommend that you include a heritage impact statement with your supporting documents (see section 2.2).

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust is a good source of information about historic gardens in Wales and may be able to offer advice about your proposed changes before you submit an application for planning permission. The local authority may also consult with the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust on planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens and their setting, including registered parks and gardens.

### **1.6 Other Considerations**

Although not a consequence of registration, there are a number of other considerations of which you need to be aware.

#### **1.6.1 Listed Building Consent**

Your registered historic park or garden may contain buildings or features that are listed because of their special historic or architectural interest. If you are planning work that may affect the character of a listed structure or its setting, you will need to apply to your local planning authority for listed building consent.

We recommend that you seek advice from your local planning authority's conservation officer about making changes to a listed building before you apply for consent. You should also bear in mind that historic features that are not listed in their own right may still be covered by the listed building designation as curtilage structures; for example, railings or boundary walls surrounding a listed house may be protected as part of the curtilage of the house.

You can find more information about applying for listed building consent in *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales*.

#### **1.6.2 Scheduled Monument Consent**

Your registered historic park or garden may contain archaeological features which are designated as scheduled monuments. Works to scheduled monuments require scheduled monument consent from us so please ask for advice.

You can find more information about applying for scheduled monument consent in *Managing Scheduled Monuments in Wales*.

#### **1.6.3 Other Designations**

Your registered historic park or garden may contain trees protected by a [Tree Preservation Order](#) (TPO), conservation area status or planning conditions, so you

may need to notify or seek appropriate permission before you begin any work. You should also be aware that the [Hedgerow Regulations 1997](#) may apply to hedges in your registered historic park or garden. Further advice is best sought from your local authority about these designations.

Historic parks and gardens also have high biodiversity value. Advice about natural environment designations — such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves — and wildlife designations is available from [Natural Resources Wales](#). Natural Resources Wales can also provide advice about national landscape designation, such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the register of historic landscapes. If you wish to apply for planning permission for development within these designations, you should contact your local planning authority.

You may need a felling or woodland management licence for some works within woodland areas. These licences are issued by Natural Resources Wales who may consult us on applications for licences within registered historic parks and gardens. If you are thinking about felling, it is a good idea to consider its impact on your historic park or garden and look for opportunities to enhance the site through replanting proposals.

Sustainable land management schemes, such as Glastir, may require you to meet specific standards of care for historic features, including registered historic parks and gardens. We are consulted on Glastir Advanced and Glastir Woodland applications affecting registered historic parks and gardens and scheduled monuments. Glastir also provides opportunities to enhance registered historic parks and gardens through the selection of appropriate management options and capital works.

### **1.7 Heritage Partnership Agreements**

If your registered historic park or garden contains multiple listed buildings and/or scheduled monuments, you may wish to establish a heritage partnership agreement.

Heritage partnership agreements aim to bring owners, consenting authorities and other interested parties together to create long-term management plans for historic assets and their settings. The agreements will cover agreed work programmes and incorporate scheduled monument and/or listed building consents. By removing the need for repeated applications for individual consents, these voluntary agreements will save time and resources for all involved.

A heritage partnership agreement may be particularly helpful if there are multiple owners or interested parties.

You can find out more about heritage partnership agreements in *Heritage Partnership Agreements in Wales*.

## **2. Managing your Registered Historic Park or Garden in Wales**

Registered historic parks and gardens continue to evolve. They cannot be frozen in time and change is often necessary. Change can involve many types of activity ranging from routine maintenance to new work or alteration. Changes that are likely to impact on registered historic parks and gardens or their settings may affect their significance and historic character.

### **2.1 Understanding the Significance of your Registered Historic Park or Garden**

It is important to understand that registered historic parks and gardens differ from other designated historic assets in a number of ways;

- they often cover large areas of land, sometimes in multiple ownership with different management regimes
- the overall structure of a historic park or garden is based on a range of natural and artificial features of historic significance. This may include archaeological remains and built structures, formal and informal planting, parkland and agricultural land, woodland, water features and features associated with water management, and natural and artificial landforms. Some of these features may be protected in their own right as listed buildings, scheduled monuments or protected trees.
- they always contain a living and therefore transient planted element
- their elements, including planting (intentional and incidental), water features (natural and designed) and ancient built features (also a habitat for lichens and wall flora and fauna) often make historic parks and gardens of high biodiversity value.

Historic parks and gardens are often, but not always, made up of many 'layers', which may reflect:

- change in land use and management over time
- past political, environmental or economic climates
- changes in ownership
- changing fashions in landscape design
- advancing technologies
- new horticultural discoveries.

We recommend that you identify the significance of your registered historic park or garden before you even consider making changes to it. A statement of significance can help you record what is important about the site, why and to whom.

All aspects of your registered historic park or garden may be part of its story and contribute to its significance. Not all aspects, however, are necessarily of equal significance and each should be considered on its own merits. Understanding why your registered historic park or garden is of special historic interest and what is significant about it will help you to care for it.

Our [Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales](#) explains more about understanding the heritage values of your registered historic park or garden and assessing its significance.

### 2.2 Managing Change to your Registered Historic Park or Garden

You may find it useful to draw up a conservation management plan to help manage change effectively, especially if your registered historic park or garden is a large or very complex site. Plans are best prepared by experts but should be proportionate to the size and complexity of the site. You can use the plan to guide your decisions about how best to manage and maintain the site in the long term.

A conservation management plan is based on an understanding of your registered historic park or garden and includes a statement of significance. It also identifies current and potential risks to your historic park or garden and looks for opportunities to improve it. You may need to balance modern requirements, such as car parking, waste disposal or signage, with the historic significance of the site as well as considering the financial implications of long-term maintenance.

This analysis provides the basis for your management policies which set out how you will manage the site day to day and in the long term. A conservation management plan is a long-term holistic approach to site management, which prevents inappropriate and ad hoc changes that may be detrimental to the historic character of the site. The [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) provides useful advice about preparing conservation management plans, including statements of significance.

Whether or not you have a conservation management plan in place, it is important to consider the impact of your proposals for change on the significance of your registered historic park or garden before you begin work. You may find it helpful to get professional advice.

The next section about good management practice explains more about the types of change that you may encounter. You may find that the process of heritage impact assessment helps you to identify the consequences of your proposals and plan your changes to minimise their effect.

In some circumstances, when planning permission or listed building or scheduled monument consent is needed, you may be asked to carry out heritage impact assessment and submit a heritage impact statement with your application. Heritage impact assessment need not be onerous but should be proportionate to both the proposal and the heritage significance. You can find out more about heritage impact assessment and statements in *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*.

If you are likely to need multiple listed building and scheduled monument consents, you may wish to establish a heritage partnership agreement (see section 1.7).

## **2.3 Good Management Practice**

This section outlines the key features which contribute to the significance of your historic park or garden and suggests best practice for their sustainable management.

### **2.3.1 Setting**

Setting can be explained as the surroundings in which your registered historic park or garden is understood, experienced and appreciated. It includes the relationship between spaces and structures, between designed and natural landscapes, and between aesthetic and utilitarian uses.

Setting is often thought of as the aesthetic or visual quality of a place but it also includes tranquillity and other factors which affect the senses, such as noise and odour. Historical, artistic, literary, linguistic, or scenic associations may be important factors too.

**Management** — When considering change, you should take a holistic approach to understanding its potential impact on setting.

For example, in a country house estate, the main house may sit within formal gardens and grounds within a hierarchy of estate buildings and structures. The formal gardens and grounds may be surrounded by the wider estate of open parkland and areas of managed woodland and farmland. Both the gardens and wider estate provide the setting for the house. Beyond this, the surrounding rural landscape provides the setting for the whole site. The impact of change on any one element could have unintended consequences for the setting if it is not properly considered.

You can find out more about setting in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*.

### **2.3.2 Views**

Views can play a very important role in your registered historic park or garden, so much so that significant views may be identified as part of the register entry. They may contribute to its significance as part of a historic design which influenced how the park or garden was appreciated in the past — and how it is appreciated today. For example, the siting and orientation of buildings may have been chosen to take advantage of the surrounding topography and scenery. The gardens and parkland may have been carefully designed and planted to complement the location, to focus views within the designed landscape and/or to take full advantage of 'borrowed views' beyond the property boundary.

Views may engage the observer in the landscape, perhaps drawing the eye along a narrow vista, or towards a building or clump of trees in the middle distance. Views can also lead the eye towards panoramic views of the surrounding countryside set against distant mountains or across the sea to the horizon. These wider landscapes may have historic value too and may be included in the register of historic landscapes in Wales.

**Management** — Over time, views can be lost or compromised. This may result from inappropriate planting, development, or from lack of maintenance which has allowed vegetation to grow and obscure the intended view. Different management regimes can also result in a loss of historic views, especially when a historic park or garden has been subdivided and has more than one owner.

Once you have identified the contribution of views to the significance of your registered historic park or garden, you may be able to open up and manage intended views which will enhance the site's historic character and heritage value, as well as your appreciation of it.

### **2.3.3 Layout**

The historic layout of your registered historic park or garden provides the physical framework within which to make decisions about change. Layout can be thought of as the relationship between the main physical elements of the park or garden — open space, buildings and other structures, planting, routes and boundaries. This relationship may be determined by design and/or function.

**Management** — It is important that you understand the significant elements of the historic layout of your registered historic park or garden and interpret their evolution. This will help you to make informed and sympathetic management decisions without compromising its historic significance.

In some cases, where a site is in multiple ownerships and under separate management regimes, the historic layout may be more difficult to interpret. The register entry and additional research, such as on historic Ordnance Survey maps, can usually resolve any ambiguity to help you understand the historic park or garden in its entirety.

### **2.3.4 Entrances and Routes**

Entrances and routes are usually arranged in a hierarchy, depending on their use and who used them. These distinctions are often reflected in their design. There will also be differences depending on the type of site and the date of its creation.

**Management** — Wherever possible, you should keep historic circulation routes open. Information in the register entry and historic map research will help you to understand which routes are significant. Ideally, you should avoid creating additional routes which subdivide parkland or alter the historic layout.

### **2.3.5 Historic Boundary Features**

Historic boundary features add to local distinctiveness. They are also important to the historic layout and historic character of your registered historic park and garden.

Boundaries may be physical and visual barriers, such as walls and hedges, or they can be physical barriers which do not interrupt views, such as parkland railings or ha-has. Other boundary features include estate railings, fences, field boundaries, and earthworks. They may form the perimeter boundary of your registered site as well as enclose spaces within it, such as walled gardens. They may have high biodiversity value too.

Perimeter planting not only creates a barrier, but also provides shelter and ornamental value.

**Management** — You should retain and repair historic boundary features using traditional materials and methods where possible. Where possible, avoid additional permanent boundaries in open parkland because they fragment the landscape physically and visually, and alter the historic layout.

It is also important to consider the function of the boundary. For example, the purpose of a walled garden is to enclose an open space traditionally used for horticultural purposes. Walled gardens, which have fallen out of horticultural use, are often seen as attractive locations for new residential development but care must be taken to respect the historic use or the open space and its setting. Finding a sustainable use for a walled garden does not have to mean development.

It is a good idea to retain and perpetuate perimeter planting using species in keeping with the historic character of the site.

Although boundary features should be obvious, information in the register entry and historical map research may help you to understand their significance. If boundary features are scheduled or listed, you may need scheduled monument or listed building consent for repairs and other work.

### 2.3.6 Built Structures

Built structures within registered historic parks and gardens can vary considerably as can their degree of survival. Don't forget that structures may be protected as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, or as curtilage structures to a listed building.

The list below outlines the main types of built structure that you can expect to find in different types of registered historic parks and gardens. The list is not definitive and many sites contain a range of these structures which reflect the historic development of the park or garden:

- medieval parks — evidence of park boundaries in the form of banks and ditches, stone walling, enclosures, park lodge complexes, barns, shelters, ponds and rabbit warrens
- formal parks and gardens — walling, terracing, paths, pergolas, summerhouses, gazebos, loggias, statues, sundials, fountains and other water features and associated water management systems
- landscape parks — stables and other estate service buildings, farm buildings, entrance lodges, ice houses, kennels, grottoes, follies, monuments, bridges, water features and associated water management systems, boathouses and bathhouses
- walled gardens — open spaces enclosed by perimeter walls often with internal dividing walls some of which may be heated, gardener's houses, bothies,

glasshouses, back sheds, frames, mushroom houses, bee boles, paths and water sources such as wells or pools

- public parks — entrance lodges, perimeter railings, shelters, conservatories, bandstands, bridges, drinking fountains, boathouses, statuary, war memorials, monuments and fountains
- cemeteries and churchyards — entrance lodges, entrance gates and perimeter walls or railings, chapels, memorials, statuary and gravestones
- hospitals and asylums — entrance lodges, entrance gates and perimeter walls, hospital buildings, chapels, paths and shelters

**Management** — Built structures are often vulnerable to damage, decay and neglect. Routine management and maintenance are important to ensure longevity. You should try to use sympathetic materials and techniques for any repairs. They need to be informed by an understanding of the historic structure and its condition. It is advisable to seek advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional before repairing historic structures.

If built structures are scheduled or listed, you may need scheduled monument consent or listed building consent for some repairs and other work. You can find out more about making changes to scheduled monuments and listed buildings in *Managing Scheduled Monuments in Wales* and *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales*. If your registered historic park or garden is part of a conservation area you may need conservation area consent to be able to demolish a building.

### 2.3.7 Water Features

Water features are an integral part of many historic parks and gardens. They can be artificial or natural, or a combination of both, but, whatever their form, water features can enhance the design and experience of parks and gardens in many ways.

A canal provides the centrepiece to a formal, symmetrical layout; a large, still lake provides tranquillity and enhances the surroundings through its reflections; a rushing waterfall can provide noise and energy; and ornamental fountains add visual appeal, movement and sound to a formal garden. Areas of water may also provide opportunities for recreational activities such as swimming and boating. And water can be simply functional in kitchen gardens and some estate buildings, such as mills. In short, water has many qualities ranging from aesthetic, symbolic and sensory through to utilitarian.

As well as their historic and archaeological importance, water features may have high palaeoecological and biodiversity value, including the presence of rare and endangered species. Conversely, water features may contain invasive species, which are detrimental to their historic and visual character, and to ecological values.

Water features may include but are not limited to the following examples:

- medieval parks — ponds, fish ponds and natural watercourses
- formal parks and gardens — formal and geometric pools and canals, and fountains
- landscape parks — ponds, lakes, cascades, waterfalls, rivers and streams
- walled gardens — pools, wells and irrigation
- public parks — ornamental pools, ponds, lakes and fountains.

**Management** — Like other historic features in your registered historic park or garden, it is essential to understand the significance of water features and associated water management structures before making changes to them. You may be able to find information about historic water features on estate maps and early edition Ordnance Survey maps, and they may appear in historic pictures, plans or photographs of the site.

Water features and water management systems can be vulnerable to damage, decay and neglect. Routine management and maintenance are important to ensure longevity, to maintain size and form, and to retain historic character.

Silting, leaks and blockages are all familiar problems. It is good practice to clear invasive and fallen vegetation regularly which can help prevent problems. Be careful when de-silting not to damage linings which are often made of puddle clay.

Livestock can erode or compact the edges of water features, which has an adverse impact on their structure and form as well as their immediate setting. Changing management regimes can help resolve these issues.

Your repairs should use sympathetic materials and techniques based on an understanding of the historic structure and its condition. You should seek advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional before repairing or restoring historic water features within your registered historic park and garden.

If water features are scheduled or listed, you may need scheduled monument or listed building consent for some repairs and other work.

Natural Resources Wales can provide advice about the ecology and biodiversity of water features.

### **2.3.8 Planting**

The main element that sets historic parks and gardens apart from other historic assets is their living component — the planting. By its very nature, planting is ever-changing both with the seasons and as plants reach the end of their natural lives. The planted features in your historic park or garden may be an intrinsic part of its historic layout and structure, but they also appeal to the senses and provide shape, colour and texture to the scene. They also provide rich and diverse wildlife habitats.

It is important to understand the significance of the planted elements. Planting may consist of areas of formal lawn, parkland pasture, formal and informal borders, topiary, shrubberies, individual parkland trees, tree clumps, arboreta, orchards, ornamental woodland, native woodland, shelter belts, and produce grown in kitchen gardens. Ancient and veteran trees may be the oldest surviving elements of your registered historic park or garden. Often, they were in existence before the landscape was laid out and incorporated into the design.

Planting may include but is not limited to the following examples:

- medieval parks — rough pastures, ancient woodlands, pollards and veteran trees
- formal parks and gardens — parterres, terraces, borders, shrubberies, avenues, groves, formal woodlands with axial walks, rides and vistas
- landscape parks — individual parkland trees, tree clumps, perimeter belts and woodlands, arboreta and avenues
- walled kitchen gardens — produce of kitchen gardens and orchards
- public parks — individual coniferous and deciduous trees throughout the park, but also those which define the perimeter; avenues, shrubberies, shrub and flower borders, rose gardens, botanic gardens, areas of carpet bedding, planting in glasshouses and conservatories
- cemeteries and churchyards — individual trees particularly evergreens such as yew, gardens of remembrance
- hospitals and asylums — lawns, trees, flower borders, shrubberies, kitchen gardens and orchards.

**Management** — You should try to retain the historic framework of planting in your registered historic park or garden, such as the configuration of parkland pasture and wooded areas. Planting of the wrong species or in the wrong location can dilute and confuse the intended design. Retaining areas of open parkland and avoiding inappropriate planting and development will help to retain what is special about your historic park and garden.

Parkland pasture, which was grazed historically, is of great visual, historic and biodiversity value. Over time, however, agricultural practice may have changed the parkland to arable cultivation. If this has happened, you should consider reversion to grazed pasture in keeping with the historic use and character. It is also a good idea not to fragment open parkland with new subdivisions, such as hedges.

Sympathetic stocking levels are important to ensure that historic parkland is not undergrazed or overgrazed. Each can have a detrimental effect on the historic and visual character, as well as the ecological value, including the loss of the characteristic browse lines of parkland trees. Undergrazing can lead to the invasion

of bracken and scrub in open parkland areas. In contrast, overgrazing can result in soil compaction and/or erosion, increased levels of bark browsing and rubbing, high nutrient levels caused by a build-up of livestock dung and urine, and a loss of diversity of grassland species.

Areas around troughs used by animals for shelter or feeding and drinking are susceptible to damage. Historic features and parkland trees are particularly vulnerable. Modern cattle tend to be larger and heavier than traditional breeds, which can make matters worse.

You should avoid using chemicals, such as pesticides, fertilisers and veterinary products, particularly around parkland trees where roots and associated mycorrhizal fungi can be easily harmed. Mycorrhizal fungi are important because they have a symbiotic relationship with the trees, which enables the trees to extract nutrients and hold onto water. In effect, the fungus provides a secondary root system which is more efficient and extensive than the tree's own root system.

Ploughing, ditching, storage of materials, vehicle and pedestrian compaction are also best avoided.

Try to retain mature and veteran parkland trees, including dying trees or standing deadwood, because of their high historic, cultural and biodiversity value. Fallen deadwood may be left in place as valuable wildlife habitats, but do consider the visual impact this may have on the parkland and limit the quantity and location as appropriate. More information about veteran and ancient trees is available from the [Woodland Trust](#).

If tree surgery is necessary — following specialist advice from a suitably qualified arborist— it should be minimal, but sufficient to prolong the life of the tree or ensure public health and safety. Felling should only be considered as a last resort. The stump may have the potential to regrow and should be left in place as a record of the lost tree and also as a wildlife habitat. A tree ring count can be taken from the stump of a mature tree to give an estimation of its age.

Understanding the significance of the planting in your registered historic park or garden can help you to manage existing and new planting. The choice of tree species should be appropriate to the historic character of the site and, where possible, should be grown from existing estate stock. There are also opportunities to grow old varieties, including fruit and vegetables.

Trees may be protected by Tree Protection Orders, conservation area status or planning conditions so you may need to notify or seek permissions from your local planning authority before beginning work. Some works within woodland areas may also require a felling licence from Natural Resources Wales (see section 1.6.3).

### **2.3.9 Documenting and Recording**

It is important to document and learn from the decisions that you take when making changes to your registered historic park or garden.

When part or even all of a feature is to be lost or altered, it is good practice to record, investigate and analyse these features as they are revealed during the course of the work.

This information, together with any historical research that you have gathered, should be retained and a copy put in your regional historic environment record and the National Monuments Record of Wales, which is the national archive for Wales maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. We also welcome any additional historical information about sites on the register.

### **3. Climate Change**

The UK Met Office (UKCP09) climate change model for Wales predicts that rising global temperatures will mean higher mean temperatures throughout the year with hotter drier or wetter summers, warmer wetter winters and more frequent extreme weather such as flooding and droughts. Ongoing work is assessing the potential impact of climate change on the historic environment in Wales, including historic parks and gardens. The Historic Environment Group has produced [\*Climate Change and the Historic Environment of Wales: A Summary of Potential Impacts\*](#) and further updates will be posted on the Cadw website. Historic parks and gardens that are celebrated for their exotic species may benefit because some heat-loving plants may flourish in warmer conditions. However, you may need to adapt plant care, planting choices and greenhouse management. Higher temperatures can also lead to a greater risk of fire in dried-out vegetation

Elsewhere, you may need to consider adaptive strategies as trees, plants and built structures are lost or damaged due to more frequent storms and flooding. Winter water storage for use during the drier summer months will also be necessary.

Increased seasonal temperatures will increase the survival rate of garden pests and diseases, which can alter the character of historic parks and gardens both directly and as a result of consequent tree and plant removal. You may need to think about the introduction of more resistant plant and tree species.

More advice will follow about adapting to the impact of climate change on all aspects of the historic environment.

### **4. Other Opportunities**

#### **4.1 Funding**

You may be eligible to apply for grant aid to help you maintain and enhance your historic park or garden. The Heritage Lottery Fund offers grants for projects that have community value and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust Small Grants Scheme offers funding towards the cost of conservation, survey and projects that promote public access, interest and enjoyment.

We can sometimes offer grant aid for repair works to scheduled monuments and listed buildings.

If you are enrolled on a sustainable land management scheme, such as Glastir, your registered historic park or garden may be eligible for grant aid.

## **4.2 Education and Heritage Skills**

Historic parks and gardens provide an engaging setting for outdoor learning, which has educational, social and physical benefits. They offer cross-curricular opportunities to use the historic and natural environments to learn about the local area, which can include children, parents and local communities.

Local communities can also get involved in volunteer activities ranging from planting and grounds maintenance to historical research and interpretation.

Traditional skills are needed to maintain and repair many of the elements within historic parks and gardens, so there may be opportunities to develop apprenticeship schemes, through the Heritage Lottery Fund for example, to increase the pool of heritage expertise.

## **4.3 Public Access**

Historic parks and gardens, many of which are freely accessible to be explored and enjoyed, can play an important role in improving people's physical and mental health and well-being. Parks and gardens engage the senses and provide a place for recreation and physical activity, whilst planting and growing can build self-confidence and give a sense of achievement.

Although many of the sites on the register are open or accessible to the public, registration does not bring any rights of public access to private land. Some sites are open occasionally through schemes such as the National Gardens Scheme or our Open Doors, which allow visitors to enjoy and appreciate the value of historic parks and gardens.

If you are interested in opening up your registered historic park or garden for a weekend every year as part of Open Doors please contact us at [cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Some historic parks or gardens were designed as public amenities and may face conflicting pressures between their modern use as leisure facilities and their original purpose as public gardens, often renowned for their planting. Managers should aim to balance historic significance with modern amenity needs.

It is also important to consider the visitor capacity of sites and limit numbers appropriately. Temporary and reversible changes, such as the introduction of protective matting or fencing, may be necessary to manage visitor circulation and prevent damage to some historic elements.

## **Annex: Finding out about your Registered Historic Park or Garden**

Historical research can help you to understand your registered historic park or garden and its development over time. This will help you to identify what is significant before you consider making any changes.

The register entry — available from Cadw — provides information about a site's history and development plus a description of the site at the time of registration.

More information about the site and its historic features may be available from:

- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
- National Library of Wales
- regional historic environment records
- local archives office or private family archives
- Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

Estate maps, tithe maps and historic Ordnance Survey maps can provide detail about historic layout and land use. Detailed plans and blueprints may be available for individual buildings or garden and park structures.

Other sources of information include contemporary literature, poetry, paintings and engravings, private diaries and letters, postcards and photographs, records of accounts and expenditure, sales catalogues and people's memories and experiences.

## **Further Information**

### **Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales**

[Cof Cymru](#) — Cadw's online record of the national historic assets of Wales includes listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites and registered historic landscapes. Registered historic parks and gardens will be added to Cof Cymru during 2017.

The following published registers provide additional information on each registered historic park and garden in Wales.

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Gwent*. (Cardiff, 1994).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Clwyd* (Cardiff, 1995).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Conwy, Gwynedd & the Isle of Anglesey* (Cardiff, 1998).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Powys* (Cardiff, 1999).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Glamorgan* (Cardiff, 2000).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire* (Cardiff, 2002).

Cadw/ICOMOS, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens — Additional and Revised Entries* (Cardiff, 2007).

### **Online Sources of Information**

The following sources can be used to find information about registered and unregistered historic parks and gardens in Wales.

[Archives Wales](#) — Online access to the catalogue allows you to obtain information about more than 7,000 collections of historical records in the holdings of 21 archives in Wales with a single search.

[Archwilio](#) — Online access to the core historic environment records of the Welsh archaeological trusts.

[Coflein](#) — The online index for the National Monuments Record of Wales, the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales.

[Historic Wales](#) — The map-enabled portal for historic environment information in Wales.

[LANDMAP](#) — The online landscape baseline resource maintained by Natural Resources Wales. LANDMAP datasets are also published for download for use in

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a Geographical Information System (GIS) on  
<http://lle.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue?lang=en&text=landmap>

Natural Resources Wales (2015) LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales.  
Historic Landscape

Natural Resources Wales (2015) LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales.  
Cultural Landscape

[National Library of Wales](#) — online access to a range of collections including maps, pictures and photographs.

[Parks & Gardens UK](#) — Parks & Gardens UK is an online resource for historic parks and gardens providing information on UK parks, gardens and designed landscapes and all activities concerned with their promotion, conservation and management.

### **Planning Policy and Guidance**

*Planning Policy Wales*, Chapter 6 — The Historic Environment

*Technical Advice Note 12: Design*

*Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*

### **Best-practice Guidance**

[Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales](#), Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff, 2011  
*Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming  
*Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming

*Managing Scheduled Monuments in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming

*Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming

*Understanding Listing in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming

*Understanding Scheduling in Wales*, Welsh Government, Cadw, forthcoming

### **Additional Reading**

[Ancient Tree Guide No.1: Trees and Farming](#), Woodland Trust, 2005

[Ancient Tree Guide No.2: Trees in Historic Parks and Landscape Gardens](#), Woodland Trust, 2008

[Ancient Tree Guide No.4: What are Ancient, Veteran and Other Trees of Special Interest?](#)

Woodland Trust, 2008

[Ancient Tree Guide No. 5: Trees and Climate Change](#), Woodland Trust, 2008

[Climate Change and the Historic Environment of Wales: A Summary of Potential Impacts](#), Historic Environment Group, 2012

[Conserving and Managing Trees and Woodlands in Scotland's Designed Landscapes](#), Forestry Commission Scotland, 2011

[Moats, Ponds and Ornamental lakes in the Historic Environment](#), English Heritage, 2011

D. Lambert, P. Goodchild and J. Roberts, *Parks and Gardens: A Researcher's Guide to Sources for Designed Landscapes*, Landscape Design Trust, 2006

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*Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*, Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS, Cardiff, 1998  
*Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS, Cardiff, 2001  
Elisabeth Whittle, *The Historic Gardens of Wales*, HMSO and Cadw, 1992  
J. Watkins and T. Wright (eds), *The Management and Maintenance of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes: The English Heritage Handbook*, 2007  
[\*Veteran Trees, a Guide to Good Management\*](#), Natural England, 2011

## **Contacts**

### **Welsh Government**

Cadw, Welsh Government  
Plas Carew  
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ

Tel. 01443 336000

[cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.wales/cadw](http://www.gov.wales/cadw)

### **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales**

Ffordd Penglais, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU

Tel. 01970 621200

[nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk](mailto:nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk)

[www.rcahmw.gov.uk](http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk)

National Monuments Record of Wales

[nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk](mailto:nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk)

[www.coflein.gov.uk](http://www.coflein.gov.uk)

You can arrange to visit the public search room in Aberystwyth where staff will explain the resources available in the National Monuments Record for researching historic parks and gardens, including historic maps, drawings, photographs and survey records.

### **Natural Resources Wales**

Natural Resources Wales  
c/o Customer Care Centre  
Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

Tel: 0300 065 3000

[enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

<http://naturalresources.wales/>

For high-level information about:

- nature conservation designations that may affect registered historic parks and gardens
- protected species
- landscape character that may form an important element of setting for registered historic parks and gardens
- information and guidance about trees

### **Welsh Historic Gardens Trust**

The Bothy, Aberglasney, Llangathen, SA32 8QH

Tel. 01558 668998

[admin@whgt.org.uk](mailto:admin@whgt.org.uk)

[www.whgt.org.uk](http://www.whgt.org.uk)

## **DRAFT Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales**

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust is a conservation and heritage organisation set up to protect and conserve historic garden and park landscapes of Wales. Its aims include the promotion of the restoration and conservation of parks and gardens which are of special historic interest in Wales and to research and document the garden history of Wales.

### **The Gardens Trust**

The Garden History Society, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

Tel. 020 7608 2409

[enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

[www.gardenhistorysociety.org](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org)

### **The National Library of Wales**

Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU

Tel. 01970 632 800

[gofyn@llgc.org.uk](mailto:gofyn@llgc.org.uk)

[www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk)

### **Local Planning Authorities**

Local planning authorities' conservation officers can be contacted via the relevant local authority website.

### **Welsh Archaeological Trusts**

You can contact the four Welsh archaeological trusts for information and advice about your regional historic environment record.

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

41 Broad Street, Welshpool SY21 7RR

Tel. 01938 553670

[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)

[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE

Tel. 01558 823121

[info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

[www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust

Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL

Tel. 01792 655208

[enquiries@ggat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ggat.org.uk)

[www.ggat.org.uk](http://www.ggat.org.uk)

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor LL57 2RT

Tel. 01248 352535

[gat@heneb.co.uk](mailto:gat@heneb.co.uk)

[www.heneb.co.uk](http://www.heneb.co.uk)

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**The Heritage Lottery Fund**

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/>

**The National Gardens Scheme**

[www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**Open Doors**

[www.cadw.gov.wales/opendoors](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/opendoors)