

**BIODIVERSITY AND
ENVIRONMENT**

St Dogmaels

The Landscape

Located at the far north eastern edge of the County between the National Park and Ceredigion. St Dogmaels generally comprises a rolling lowland agricultural landscape with a variety of large and small scale regular and irregular fields with hedgebank and hedgerow boundaries of varied management, and the western shoreline of the River Teifi.

The agricultural landscape of rolling farmland contains scattered farmsteads and limited numbers of isolated dwellings. The field scape is made up of large and small regular and irregular fields bounded by hedgerow and hedgebank boundaries with trees within managed hedges with gorse and narrow bands of trees and scrub along stream corridors.

Where this character area extends into the low lying saltmarsh and dunes adjacent to the intertidal estuary, maritime influences at the transition between sea and dry land, forms part of a wild exposed and transient coastal seascape.

Habitats are dominated by improved grassland with low levels of arable to the south of the area, small areas of broadleaved and coniferous woodland, scrub and bracken which add interest to the improved grassland.

(Pembrokeshire County Council, 2019)

Land Owned by the Community Council

Much of the land owned by the Community Council is adjacent the Afon Teifi designated as an area of Special Area of Conservation ¹.

Much of the land is adjacent or designated as A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ² and is registered village green.

The Community Council works in close collaboration with Natural Resources Wales to ensure that the land management schemes comply with the strict requirements associated with the responsibilities of safeguarding the important natural landscape.

Councillors and volunteers monitored Community Council owned land during 2020, as a result of which the Community Council is piloting a year long grounds maintenance scheme aimed at enhancing biodiversity in these areas.

Appendix A shows a map of the owned by the Community Council designated SSSI.

¹ A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or marine – listed in the [Habitats Directive](#).

² (SSSI) is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that's of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiological features that may lie in its boundaries.

Pinog

Sited adjacent the banks of the tidal River Teifi the land known as 'The Pinog'.

An area of historic interest due to its association with the local fishing industry the land is frequently flooded. It is managed to retain a natural riverside character.

A bio-diversity report on the area can be seen in the attached document 'St Dogmaels report Pinog' and a report on species observed during 2020



Boat repairs, slipway, St Dogmaels
(Davies, 2018)



The Pinog, St Dogmaels (Davies, 2019)

Alexandra Gardens



Managed as a formal recreation ground containing picnic seating and the village playground. The river cliffs adjacent Alexandra Gardens are managed in accordance with a 10 year management plan agreed with Natural Resources Wales.



Alexandra Gardens showing the historic net drying 'stays' to the left, which used to be used by the seine net fishermen to dry their fishing nets



Landing stage and blessing stone area

Leased land

The Community Council also leases land from Y Felin. The land is managed by volunteers to emulate the herb garden that might have been kept by the monks of St Dogmaels Abbey. The Abbey, founded in approximately 1115, is now a ruin managed by Cadw.



Herb Garden, St Dogmaels

Partnership Working

The Council works with various partners to enhance the local environment.

The Council has, since 2006, funded a knotweed control programme for the village. The area of infestation of knotweed has been reduced to approximately 5% of that originally treated at the start of the programme. It supports St Dogmaels Community Association in control of Himalayan Balsam in areas around and adjacent the village. For report see Appendix B.

During 2020 Councillors and volunteers monitored County Council owned verges within the ward. The Community Council is now working with Pembrokeshire County Council on a pilot project to enhance bio diversity on selected areas of verge.



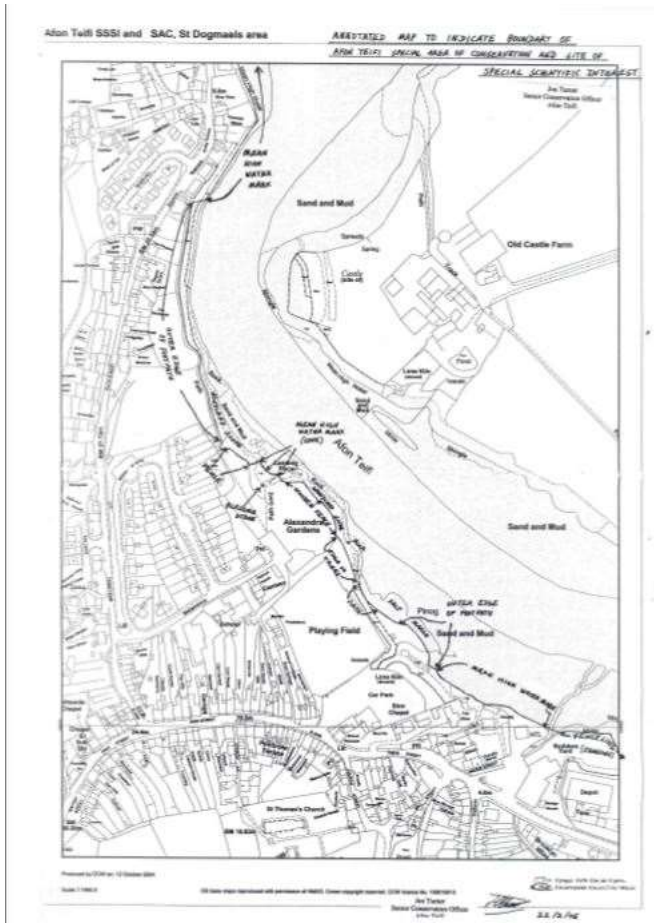
Information boards created working with Jane Davidson AM, St Dogmaels Footpaths Group, St Dogmaels Community Council and local businesses to celebrate the 1st anniversary of opening of Wales Coast Path, (Davies 2013).



Working to together to promote the launch of the Community Dogwatch Scheme, Pembrokeshire County Council officers, dog wardens and County Councillor with members of St Dogmaels Community Council and Dyfed-Powys Police. Ensuring that where possible access is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition (Davies, 2017).

Appendix A

Map showing location of SSSI on Community Council owned land



Appendix B

Re return of native species after invasive species control 2019

St Dogmaels Community Council has been coordinating community based control of Japanese Knotweed since 2006 covering 107 sites in the village & in the PCNPA area. The area of knotweed has reduced by approx 95%.

St Dogmaels Community Association (Cymdeithas Llandudoch) have been coordinating community based control of Himalayan Balsam since 2011 with initially 18 acres in the PCNPA area of Poppit and then expanded to include a further 32 acres on Cemaes Head. We have won 'Best River Improvement in Wales' from 'Keep Wales Tidy' & a Pembrokeshire Heroes' Award
In 2004 Poppit Marsh was alive with dragonflies & damselflies & the sound of birdsong – reed, sedge, cetti's & grasshopper warblers, water rail, woodcock & snipe among the common reed & reedmace, tussock sedges, willow & alder.

In 2011 Poppit Marsh was almost a monoculture of Balsam and silent – no bird song, no space for bird display, just balsam often 150 balsam per square metre.
So far in 2017 in Poppit Marsh we have found about 500 balsam in 21,000 sq metres and are surrounded by birdsong.

This year Poppit Marsh is a magic place where we have the privilege to clear balsam by floating on what we call 'bog mats' so we do not disappear into the depths and between our feet as we float in the water newts & frogspawn & frogs wiggle.

Parts of the marsh are more beautiful than the Florida everglades with willow & ferns, tussock sedges & flowers I need to identify.

On clearing balsam we recorded 83 flowering plants which just regenerated themselves.

On Cemaes Head we reduced to Balsam for example from 350 plants per sq metre to 3 per acre

The effectiveness of the community education campaign is illustrated at meetings when, if a mention is made of Himalayan Balsam or Japanese Knotweed the audience boo & hiss
Our success gave PCNPA the grounds for the 'Stitch in Time Project' coordinated by Matt Tebbutt PCNPA and formed the basis of the 'Himalayan Balsam – What is the Problem & How do we tackle it?' Leaflet which is now being used by other organisations and has been taken to countries in Europe by visitors in the area impressed by what has been achieved

We produce local newsletters focussed on specific areas

I am very happy to talk more about this

Gill Wislocka

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Secretary Cymdeithas Llandudoch//St Dogmaels Community Association

Secretary Llwybrau Llandudoch/St Dogmaels Footpath Association

Community Councillor coordinating the Japanese Eradication Programme & with Herbicide Certification

Appendix C

From Orchard Project Website <http://www.stdogmaelsabbey.org.uk/peoplesorchard>

The People's Orchard Project 2016-2019 is a three year environmental enhancement project for the ward of St. Dogmaels.

- Its aim is to create a series of bio-diverse ecosystems throughout the area to encourage a pollinator friendly environment.
- In tandem with the extensive planting programme of fruit trees and wild flower meadows will be an educational programme aimed at all age ranges across a broad range of skills.
- We will tackle invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed
- We will work with our Orchardist to maintain and improve existing orchards.
- Each "eco-system" will be monitored scientifically from the outset to assess any improvement in biodiversity.

In addition:

The Orchard Project has also carried out a systematic program of recording Bee sightings and populations reported via West Wales Biological Information Centre – WWBIC.

It has also monitored butterfly/day moth populations in St Dogmaels Ward. (WWBIC)

Run a program of education workshops for residents including Bee ID, Recording techniques, Bee Walks and how to create/improve wildlife habitat,

Working with Cymdeithas Llandudoch has planted a small orchard on a site at Cippyn Marsh which was previously infested with Himalayan Balsam.

Created (with agreement of CADW) wild flower meadow areas in the grounds of St Dogmaels abbey in order to increase bio-diversity

Wellbeing of Future Generations Act


Wales was one of the first countries in the world to define a concept of Community Governance in law, with a unique piece of legislation, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Wales is doing things differently

Wales is one of the first countries to introduce a law like this. The Act says that 44 public bodies, such as Local Authorities, the NHS, Fire and Rescue and others, must work together towards seven well-being goals.

The seven well-being goals:

- 1** A prosperous Wales – where everyone has jobs and there is no poverty
- 2** A resilient Wales – where we're prepared for things like floods
- 3** A healthier Wales – where everyone is healthier and are able to see the doctor when they need to
- 4** A more equal Wales – where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background
- 5** A Wales of cohesive Communities – where Communities can live happily together
- 6** A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh
- 7** A globally responsible Wales – where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World.



To show that they are working towards the seven well-being goals they have to think about:

- The long term
- How they involve people in making decisions
- How to stop problems happening in the first place
- How connected our lives are
- How they work together with others

(7 Wellbeing goals - Wales is doing things differently, 2015)

