Statement of Purpose

Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales supplements Planning Policy Wales¹ and Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment.²

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)³ 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, 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.

Please note that although the statutory register does not come into force until 2018, Managing Change to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales has been published in advance to help owners and agents understand that registration does not impose any additional restrictions and how best to look after their registered historic park or garden.
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1. 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.

2. Registered historic parks and gardens are a finite resource to cherish and protect for future generations.

3. Change may be desirable or necessary, but needs to be well managed.

4. 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.

5. 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, and help meet the goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. 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 registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings, when preparing local development plans and when making planning decisions.

The purpose of registration is to protect and preserve the essential features of historic parks and gardens, but this need not be 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.

I. 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, agents, local planning authorities and the Welsh Government. Even if your historic park or garden is not registered, it may still have historic value.
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, to model farms, hospital landscapes, cemeteries, town gardens and public parks. You can find a good introduction to the chronological history of parks and gardens in Wales in The Historic Gardens of Wales.

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 will be made available in Cof Cymru — Cadw’s online record of the historic assets of Wales.

1.2 What are the Criteria for Registration?

Historic parks and gardens are added to the register when they are identified as having special historic interest and 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)
- 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.

All registered historic parks or gardens are of special historic interest, but they 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 under threat, 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 Ask for a Review?

You may ask us to review our decision to register historic parks and gardens, including their grade. For us to be able to consider a 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. The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust may be able to offer advice or recommend an expert. Contact details are at the end of this guidance.

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.

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

1.5.1 Local Planning Authorities

Local planning authorities should protect and conserve registered historic parks and gardens, and their settings. To do this, they should develop locally specific policies that will contribute to their protection and enhancement in their local development plans. 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. Occasionally, the local planning authority may ask for more information to be able to determine a planning application. This may include a heritage impact statement if the proposed development is likely to have an impact on a registered historic park or garden, or its setting.

The local planning authority must consult Cadw on planning applications affecting registered historic parks and gardens, or their settings. The local planning authority may also consult with the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust on planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens and their settings, including registered sites.

1.5.2 Applying for Planning Permission

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 historic character. You might also want to consider enhancing the site, for example, through the removal of inappropriate structures.

We recommend that you hold pre-application discussions with the local authority planning officer, conservation officer and archaeological advisor. The local planning authority can invite us to these pre-application discussions.15

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 strongly 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.

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.

If you apply for listed building consent, you will need to carry out a heritage impact assessment and submit a heritage impact statement with your application to your local planning authority. 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.16

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.17
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.

Depending on the nature of the changes you propose, we may ask you to submit a heritage impact statement with your application for scheduled monument consent.¹⁸

Your registered historic park or garden may also contain significant archaeological features that are undesignated or as yet undiscovered. Your local historic environment record may contain more information.¹⁹ When considering change that may impact on archaeological features, you should contact your local planning authority’s archaeological advisors for advice.

1.6.3 Other Designations

Your historic park or garden may be part of a conservation area or included on a list of historic assets of special local interest. If it is, you should check with your local planning authority about any restrictions that may apply when planning to make changes.

If you apply for conservation area consent to demolish a building, you will need to submit a heritage impact statement with your application to your local planning authority.²⁰

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 1997²² 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.²³ Natural Resources Wales can also provide strategic 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 Cadw on applications for licences within registered historic parks and gardens. If you are thinking about felling and/or replanting, it is good practice to consider its impact on your historic park or garden and look for opportunities to enhance the site through replanting proposals. Inappropriate planting can disguise or detract from a site’s historic value. See the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) guidelines on Forests and Historic Environment and Forests and Landscape for further information and guidance.²⁴
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. Cadw is 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.

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 to secure their long-term sustainability. 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.

The register entry held on Cof Cymru — Cadw’s online record of the national historic assets of Wales — may explain why your historic park or garden is registered, but may not detail all its special features. It is not a statement of significance.

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.

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
• local historic environment records
• the Welsh archaeological trusts
• 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.
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.

Your conservation management plan should also consider the financial sustainability of long-term maintenance. We recognise that compromise may be needed to balance appropriate conservation with income generation. Conservation Principles provides a framework to consider such tensions and help you to find sustainable solutions.

Your 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. In particular, you should beware of the potential cumulative impact of small-scale changes, which individually may seem insignificant. 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.

2.3 Good Management Practice

This section outlines the key features which can contribute to the significance of your historic park or garden and suggests best practice for their sustainable management. It highlights general principles and approaches, but it is important to remember that different solutions will apply in different circumstances because each historic park or garden is unique.
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.

Good Management Practice

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.
2.3.3 Archaeology

Elements of parks and gardens may also survive as archaeological features. The remains of former garden layouts and features, such as terraces, paths, drives, planting beds, tree holes, banks, walls and water features, may survive as partially standing structures, earthworks or sub-surface features. Such remains not only provide information about historic development, construction methods, layout and design, but also about horticultural or estate function and land division. A range of archaeological techniques may be employed in the study of garden archaeology, including field observation and survey, aerial reconnaissance, geophysical survey and excavation. This information can be combined with map and archival evidence to build up a picture and gain a greater understanding of the historic park and garden.

Good Management Practice

Significant archaeological features may be present in a historic park and garden; they may be undesignated or as yet undiscovered. When considering change that may impact on archaeological features, you should contact your local planning authority’s archaeological advisors for advice.

2.3.4 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.
Good Management Practice

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, using historic Ordnance Survey maps for example, can usually resolve any ambiguity to help you understand the historic park or garden in its entirety.

2.3.5 Entrances and Routes

Entances 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.

Good Management Practice

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. If possible, you should avoid creating additional routes which subdivide parkland or alter the historic layout. If a new route is unavoidable or highly desirable, you should give it careful consideration to ensure minimal adverse impact on your registered historic park or garden.

2.3.6 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.
2.3.7 Garden Buildings and Ornaments

Built structures within registered historic parks and gardens can vary considerably as can their degree of survival. Remember 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

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**Good Management Practice**

You should retain historic boundary features where possible and your repairs should use traditional materials and methods. 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.
• 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
• hospital landscapes — entrance lodges, entrance gates and perimeter walls, hospital buildings, chapels, paths and shelters.

**Good Management Practice**

Built structures are often vulnerable to damage, decay and neglect. Routine management and maintenance are important to ensure longevity. Your repairs should use sympathetic materials and techniques. 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 listed buildings in *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.

### 2.3.8 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.

**Good Management Practice**

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.
2.3.9 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 and beds, topiary, shrubberies, individual parkland trees, tree clumps, arboreta, orchards, ornamental woodland, native woodland, shelter belts, and kitchen garden produce. 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. Some historic parks and gardens contain important plant collections or rare and unusual specimens.

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
- hospital landscapes — lawns, trees, flower borders, shrubberies, kitchen gardens and orchards.

**Good Management Practice**

Registration does not place any restrictions on planting layout and choice of plants; however, understanding the significance of the planting in your registered historic park or garden can help you to manage it and enhance historic character.
Planting, which forms an important element of the historic design, such as individual parkland and garden trees, avenues, clumps, arboreta and other ‘structural’ planting should be retained, where possible, and managed appropriately to ensure their perpetuation. New tree planting should be sympathetic to the historic character of the registered park or garden in terms of location and species. Where possible, this is best grown from existing estate stock. These trees will become the ancients and veterans of the future. Planting may also have to be adapted to take account of climate changes, such as threats from pests and diseases, or storm damage. Regular tree surveys linked to a management plan can be a good idea to help you plan for the future of your historic park or garden.

In historic parkland, you should retain, and if necessary aim to restore, the historic configuration of open parkland pasture and wooded areas. Retaining areas of open parkland and avoiding inappropriate planting will help to retain what is special about your historic park. Fragmentation of open parkland with new subdivisions, such as hedges, should also be avoided.

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, character and setting, and to improve parkland habitats.

Sympathetic stocking levels are important to ensure that historic parkland is not under 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 used by animals for shelter or around feeding and drinking troughs 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, 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 them 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.
2.3.10 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 the feature as it is 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 local authority historic environment record, which is managed by one of the four Welsh archaeological trusts and accessible through Archwilio. A copy should also be deposited with 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. The Country Houses Foundation also awards grants for the repair and conservation of rural historic buildings and structures including, where appropriate, gardens, grounds and outbuildings.

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 involve schools 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 maybe 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 Garden 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

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.
References

   Registered historic parks and gardens will be added to Cof Cymru during 2018. Register entry descriptions are available from Cadw on request.
9. The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust is a conservation and heritage organisation set up to protect and conserve historic gardens 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. www.whgt.org.uk
14 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment, para. 7.3 →
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/?lang=en

15 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment, para. 7.4 →
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/?lang=en

16 Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017 →

17 Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017 →

18 You can find out more about heritage impact assessment and statements in Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017 →

19 The historic environment record for each local authority area can be accessed online through Archwilio. Archwilio is maintained and supported with further information held by the Welsh archaeological trusts. →
www.archwilio.org.uk

20 Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017 →

21 Technical Advice Note 10: Tree Preservation Orders →
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan10/?lang=en

22 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 →

23 Natural Resources Wales →
https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en

24 Forests and Historic Environment, UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, Forestry Commission, 2011 →
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs/historicenvironment
Forests and Landscape, UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, Forestry Commission, 2011
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8bvf7a

25 Glastir is the sustainable land management scheme, through which the Welsh Government offers financial support to farmers and land managers. →
http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/?lang=en

26 Cof Cymru — National Historic Assets of Wales. Registered historic parks and gardens will be added to Cof Cymru during 2018. →


Heritage Lottery Fund — conservation management plan guidance
https://www.hlf.org.uk/conservation-plan-guidance


Registered historic landscapes are described in Cof Cymru — National Historic Assets of Wales
The Welsh archaeological trusts have identified and analysed historic landscape character areas for each registered historic landscape which can be accessed on the trusts’ websites. Your registered historic park or garden may contribute to the character of a historic landscape or be a key feature.

Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales. Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

Palaeoecology uses the remains of organisms, such as shells, pollen and seeds, to reconstruct past environments and human activity. These survive well in waterlogged deposits, which means that water features may preserve evidence that could be used to understand how the surrounding landscape was used in the past or what crops were grown for example.

The Woodland Trust
http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

Archwilio provides online public access to the historic environment records for each local authority area in Wales. Archwilio is maintained and supported with further information held by the Welsh archaeological trusts.
www.archwilio.org.uk

National Monuments Record of Wales
http://www.coflein.gov.uk/

Climate Change and the Historic Environment of Wales: A Summary of Potential Impacts. Historic Environment Group, Climate Change Subgroup, 2012

Heritage Lottery Fund — grants
https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust — grants
http://www.whgt.org.uk/

The Country Houses Foundation — grants
https://www.countryhousesfoundation.org.uk/copy-of-our-grants
41  Glastir
   http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/?lang=en

42  National Garden Scheme
   http://www.ngs.org.uk/

43  Open Doors
   http://cadw.gov.wales/opendoors/?lang=en
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 2018.


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 — 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 — an online catalogue that allows you to search information about more than 7,000 collections of historical records in the holdings of 21 archives in Wales with a single search.
www.archiveswales.org.uk

Archwilio — provides online public access to the historic environment records for each local authority area in Wales. Archwilio is maintained and supported with further information by the Welsh archaeological trusts.
www.archwilio.org.uk

Coflein — the online catalogue for the National Monuments Record of Wales, the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales.
http://www.coflein.gov.uk/
Cynefin — an online resource to research Welsh tithe maps and their indexes.
http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/

Historic Wales — an online gateway to national and regional historic environment records.
http://historicwales.gov.uk

LANDMAP — the online landscape baseline resource maintained by Natural Resources Wales. LANDMAP datasets are also published for download for use in a geographical information system (GIS) on http://lle.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue?lang=en&text=landmap

Natural Resources Wales (2016) LANDMAP Methodology: Guidance for Wales. Historic Landscape

List of Historic Place Names of Wales — records the various forms and spellings used for the names of topographical features, communities, thoroughfares, structures and other aspects of the landscape recorded in sources that predate the First World War.
https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/

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.
http://www.parksandgardens.org/

The National Library of Wales — online access to a range of collections including maps, pictures and photographs.
https://www.llgc.org.uk/

Planning Policy and Guidance
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9), Chapter 6: The Historic Environment
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/ppw/?lang=en

Technical Advice Note 12: Design
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/?lang=en

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment
http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/tans/?lang=en

Best-practice Guidance

Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017

Setting of Historic Assets in Wales, Welsh Government, Cadw, 2017
Additional Reading

**Ancient Tree Guide No.1: Trees and Farming**, Woodland Trust, 2005  


**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  
http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/landscape

**Forests and Historic Environment**, UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, Forestry Commission, 2011  
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs/historicenvironment

**Forests and Landscape**, UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, Forestry Commission, 2011  
https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8bvf7a

**Moats, Ponds and Ornamental lakes in the Historic Environment**, English Heritage, 2011  


**Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales**, Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS, 2001


http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/75035
Contacts

**Welsh Government**
Historic Environment Service (Cadw)
Plas Carew
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ
Tel. 03000 256000
cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.wales/cadw

**Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales**
Ffrodd Penglais, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU
Tel. 01970 621200
nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk
www.rcahmw.gov.uk

**National Monuments Record of Wales**
nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk
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**
c/o Customer Care Centre
Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP
Tel. 0300 065 3000
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
www.whgt.org.uk
The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust is a conservation and heritage organisation set up to protect and conserve historic gardens 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**
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
Tel. 020 7608 2409
enquiries@thegardenstrust.org
www.thegardenstrust.org

**Heritage Lottery Fund**
http://www.hlf.org.uk/

**National Garden Scheme**
www.ngs.org.uk

**Open Doors**
www.cadw.gov.wales/opendoors

**Local Planning Authorities**
Local planning authorities’ conservation and planning 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 local historic environment record.

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
41 Broad Street, Welshpool SY21 7RR
Tel. 01938 553670
trust@cpat.org.uk
www.cpat.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE
Tel. 01558 823121
info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL
Tel. 01792 655208
enquiries@ggat.org.uk
www.ggat.org.uk

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor LL57 2RT
Tel. 01248 352535
gat@heneb.co.uk
www.heneb.co.uk
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