Archwilio Cymru
Audit Wales

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority – Annual Audit Summary 2025

Date issued: February 2026



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

Introduction



Adrian Crompton

Auditor General for Wales

I am pleased to share my Annual Audit Summary for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (the Authority). It summarises the main findings from my 2025 audit work undertaken to fulfil my responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

I provided an opinion on whether the accounts were properly prepared and gave a true and fair view, in all material aspects.

My audit team has also assessed whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, and has acted in line with the sustainable development principle. We summarised the 2024-25 performance audit work in our last Annual Audit Summary for 2024, which we published in May 2025. That Summary included our reviews on the setting of well-being objectives and on promoting access to the National Park. As set out in my audit plan, these reviews have been carried out in line with the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) standards.

The detailed audit findings for each of my reviews are set out in the respective reports which my audit team have presented throughout the year. The performance audit reports are available on the Audit Wales website and further links are available in the summary.

The Annual Audit Summary should be shared with the Governance and Audit Committee. I will then make the summary available to the public on the Audit Wales website.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Authority's officers for their help and cooperation throughout my audit work.

Your audit at a glance



The draft financial statements were received on 7 August 2025, which was after the deadline of 30 June 2025 this year and, as a result, in line with agreement in the Local Government sector. The Authority's accounts were not prioritised for audit by the agreed deadline of 31 October 2025.

The quality of the draft statements presented for audit was reasonable – our audit work did identify a large number of errors and these errors either led to amendments to the accounts and/or a need for us to undertake additional audit work and extended sample testing.

With the accounts production and audit window reducing next year, achieving these revised accounts and audit deadlines for 2025-26 will become more challenging still.

We have not raised a recommendation in respect of this issue. We will discuss it as part of our audit post project learning with officers, to assess the position and work with officers to help achieve the earlier deadlines.



I issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts after the statutory deadline of 31 October 2025. There were no uncorrected misstatements in the accounts. There was one significant issue reported in relation to underlying errors within the Revaluation Reserve which, although not material, the Authority will address in 2025-26.



My performance audit work for 2024-25 was reported in the 2024 Annual Audit Summary.



My audit team has not made any recommendations to the Authority for this 2025 Annual Audit Summary.



My audit team has completed the audit work as set out in my Audit Plan dated April 2025.



The estimated fee set out in my Audit Plan dated April 2025 was £51,493 (£31,836 for Financial Audit and £19,657 for Performance Audit).

The final Performance Audit fee is in line with the estimate.

However, due to the volume of issues and misstatements identified during our financial audit work (as reported in our Audit of Accounts Report in February 2026), there was an additional fee charged for Financial Audit of £1,959.

Audit of accounts findings

Preparing annual accounts is an essential part of demonstrating the stewardship of public money. The accounts show the organisation's financial performance and set out its net assets/reserves, total comprehensive income and expenditure, and cash flows. My annual audit of those accounts provides an opinion on whether the accounts were properly prepared and gave a true and fair view, in all material aspects.

My responsibilities in auditing the accounts are described in my Statement of Responsibilities publications, which are available on the Audit Wales website.

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My audit opinion

I must report issues arising from my work to those charged with governance for consideration before I issue my audit opinion on the accounts. I reported these issues within my Audit of Accounts Report to the National Park Authority meeting on 11 February 2026.

Accuracy of preparation

A large number of changes were made to the draft accounts arising from my audit work.

There were no uncorrected misstatements.

There was one significant issue reported in relation to underlying errors within the Revaluation Reserve which, although not material, the Authority will address in 2025-26.

My work did not identify any material weaknesses in internal controls (as relevant to my audit), and I made no recommendations.

The Authority's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements and with my knowledge of the Authority.

I concluded that the Authority's accounts were properly prepared and materially accurate and issued an unqualified audit opinion on them.

Audit completion

I issued the certificate confirming that the audit of accounts for 2024-25 was completed on 13 February 2026.

Performance audit findings

My team reported the performance audit work identified in the 2024-25 Audit Plan in our last Annual Audit Summary, which we published in May 2025. That Summary included our reviews on the setting of well-being objectives and on promoting access to the National Park.

Audit quality

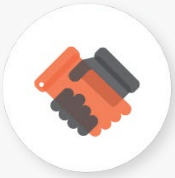
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We use three lines of assurance to show how we achieve this. We have set up an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and our Chair of the Board, acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our Audit Quality Report 2024.



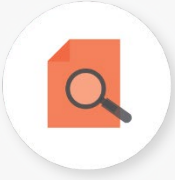
Our People

- Selection of right team
- Use of specialists
- Supervisions and review



Arrangements for achieving audit quality
Selection of right team

- Audit platform
- Ethics
- Guidance
- Culture
- Learning and development
- Leadership
- Technical support



Independent assurance

- EQRs
- Themed reviews
- Cold reviews
- Root cause analysis
- Peer review
- Audit Quality Committee
- External monitoring

Further information

Audit Wales has a range of other information to support the scrutiny of Welsh public bodies and to continue to improve the services provided to the people of Wales.

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Our publications which cover our audit work at public bodies.



Information on our upcoming work and forward work programme for performance audit.



Data tools to help you better understand public spending trends.



Details of our Good Practice work and events including the sharing of emerging practice and insights from our audit work.



Our newsletter which provides you with regular updates on our public service audit work, good practice, and events.

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