



**PEMBROKESHIRE HUNT**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**Proposed Kennels Treffgarne**

## **Introduction and History**

The Pembrokeshire Hunt as an organised private club has been in existence since mid-1700 having been in various places before settling in its current premises at Slade Lane for well over 100 years.

It currently has a membership in the region of 100 plus from all walks of life, with Hunt members being split between horse riders and foot followers.

Due to a change in circumstances the land owners of Slade Lane Kennels (Dashwood Estates) have decided to terminate the tenancy as the Slade Kennels location has been earmarked as having valuable development potential.

## **Our vision**

It is the Pembrokeshire's Hunt's genuine desire to carry on with this old long established local tradition by continuing the hunt in its present form in the heart of Pembrokeshire's hunting country.

Further it is the Hunts wish to maintain the rapport and good relationship with local people in Treffgarne, as has been experienced whilst at Slade Lane and therefore have duly incorporated provision to address the Treffgarne resident's concerns.

It is the Hunts dedicated commitment, that in Treffgarne, they will maintain the excellent relationship and compliance with DEFRA, Pembrokeshire CC and Natural Resources Wales that already exists on the Slade Lane Kennels site.

The Pembrokeshire Hunt with a full pack of Hounds with up to 40 to 50 Riders are a regular annual attraction for the Boxing day meet held in the Castle Square Haverfordwest. This amongst other attractions is where every year the Hunt and Hounds are invited to attend the County and Fishguard Shows where they have become one of the highlights where the public, families and their children enjoy mingling amongst the hounds and horses.

## **Operational Management**

1. Hours of Operation  
Start time variable but normally around 6.30 am and finishing dependant on the time of year and activity planned
2. Staffing  
The huntsman and/or the assistant huntsman will be on site 24/7 to attend to the hounds, receive deliveries and to ensure security
3. Out of hours deliveries visits are by arrangement only.
4. Record keeping is kept by the Huntsman and a nominated hunt member
5. Animal Health visit the kennels for regular inspection every 6 weeks and
6. Accommodation being Residential static caravan on site North of the kennels.
7. It must be noted that the activities of the hunt are conducted within the main building that has large closable double doors as the main front entrance

## Hounds Care and Housing

1. Care - the Huntsman and assistant are in constant care of the hounds addressing all day to day matters.
2. Housing - the kennels being of sound construction - bedding - well drained and weather protected.
3. There are planned 5 No individual separated individual housing kennels (known as "Lodges") each to accommodate 14-16 Hounds - size 3.8m x 3.8m (14.5m<sup>2</sup>).
4. The individual kennels will all be constructed internally to the existing barn structure.
5. Each individual kennel will have a raised platform concrete sleeping area size 1.5m x 3m (4.5m<sup>2</sup>)- raised 600mm off the existing concrete floor slab.
6. Each kennel will have its own individual entrance door accessed only from the internal secure corridor within the main structure.
7. Each Kennel will also have its own secure external blockwork and mesh fenced and roofed "kennel run" - accessed **only internally within each kennel - NOTE the "kennel runs" cannot be accessed from outside the main building.**
8. All kennels are constructed in concrete rendered block with heights varying from 2.4m (wall adjoining the internal corridor - 1.8m (internal wall between each individual kennel) - and 1.2m wall with 1.4m security chain link mesh fencing on top (to all walls around and between each and every kennel run).
9. Diet - Fresh meat of fallen stock (see separate section) and each set of hounds in each of the 5 lodges are taken in turn to the feed room to be fed (see site layout plan Drawing 06a).

## Hounds Behaviour

1. Hounds by nature are **quiet animals** with occasional short bursts when food is distributed or when they are being loaded for transport to exercise.
2. It is important that Hounds must not be compared to normal domestic dogs who can cause a great nuisance with unnecessary and habitual and perpetual barking when left alone, become bored or just noisy dogs.
3. In the current Kennels at Slade Lane there is very close proximity to neighbouring houses, unlike the kennel location in Treffgarne where the nearest local resident is 200 yards away and situated behind a dense wooded bank and also over a mile away from Treffgarne village.
4. At Slade Lane there has only been a single registered complaint concerning the Hounds - this was however eventually dismissed by the authorities as effectively a nuisance caller as despite numerous complaints by this caller and repeated visits by the authorities, there was no evidence to show that the Hounds were a problem.
5. Hounds are rigorously trained - they are very obedient and there is an ill-founded misconception that they are a danger to the public. This is incorrect and far from the truth - they are pleasant creatures.
6. If on a rare occasion a particular hound is found to be a nuisance then it is promptly removed from the pack and re-homed.
7. This is borne out when the Hunt shows off the hounds and mounted Hunt members at the annual County Show where the general public including young children are invited and encouraged to meet and walk with the hounds - this they do with evident enjoyment and over the years has become a highlight of the County Show

8. The Council's environmental Officer Mr David Walters a Pollution Officer of the Public Protection Division, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 met with our Huntsman (Mr Gary Barber) and went out with Gary Barber for a walking exercise with a pack of hounds (40 Hounds were actually used for this exercise) to see for himself and assess the behaviour and control of the hounds.
9. The report from Mr David Walters conclusion (according to his internal report) was that it upholds what the Hunt has persistently maintained that the hounds are well controlled. well trained and very well behaved and do not offer any threat to the public.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

The hounds are exercised in batches either in the confines of Tan Y Garnes field or transported to other local fields in the surrounding area or loactions (e.g. Plumstone Mountain etc).

**Transportation of the hounds will not travel through Treffgarne Village**

### **Daily Running of the Kennels**

1. Clean out kennels and clear up all hound droppings and bedding.
2. Hose down all hound kennels, bedding areas and kennel run areas to drainage collection point and discharge into the cess pool sunken storage tank
3. Transfer hounds from kennels to internal Feeding Area located inside main building (see layout plan on Drawing 06a)
4. Prepare for Hounds for exercise or trail hunting.
5. Exercise hounds or Trail Hunt outing (dependant of time of year)
6. Fallen stock collection and processing (see separate section)
7. General other day to day kennel duties etc

### **Drainage**

The throughout the whole of the Kennels including Kennel runs, and Feed areas and fallen stock preparation areas will be washed down, disinfected and drained and discharge into the cess pool sunken storage tank and finally pumped out and collected and removed off site by a registered waste disposal company.

### **Fallen Stock - Including Smell and Waste Disposal**

1. Fallen stock is **collected by the hunt** from local farmers and brought back to the kennels and transferred to Fallen Stock preparation Area (see Drawing 06a)
2. The de-fleshing area for the fallen stock is dealt with solely internal to the main building and is kept entirely separate from the other areas within the main building. The de-fleshing area will be kept out of view from the public by an internal privacy screen situated just inside the two large opening doors - The carcasses are stripped, and the meat prepared for feeding for the hounds
3. The skins are salted and collected by an authorised company and shipped to Spain for leather preparation

4. The bones and offal are put into **sealed bins** which are then pushed into a large ships type container with closed doors which is kept constantly closed and hosed down and drained to the water treatment plant.
5. The sealed bins have the contents collected regularly (every 2 weeks or sooner if necessary) - dependant on volume of waste produced) by an registered authorised company (Pointons)
6. SMELL - The bins are washed down, disinfected and drained off to the cess pool storage tank and resealed.
7. Record of the continuous and regular inspections by Animal Health and Natural Resources Wales of all Fallen Stock activities are kept by the Hunt for inspection.

### **Fencing and Security & Visual**

#### **Noise**

1. The new Kennels are located approx 200m away from nearest neighbours and approx 1.4 miles Treffgarne village
2. It must be stressed that Hounds are quiet creatures, and all measures are taken to mitigate any noise by the hounds which are to be kept in the main building.
3. The above is ratified by Mr Davis Walters (Pollution Control Officer) whose findings were that the hounds were well trained and very well controlled and with very little noise and are no threat to the public and hounds handlers. Notwithstanding the above, all fencing to kennels and kennel runs will have high secure fencing in all locations.
4. Hounds are unlike dogs in that they are controlled and not prone to excessive barking as experienced by bored left alone dogs.
5. All feeding activities are carried out within the main building
6. The Hounds are kept inside in their locked kennels (lodges) at night.
7. There is to be a privacy 2m high fence and/or hedge bank to augment the existing road side hedge bank to run in front of the entrance to the main building

