



Contributions: NAFW 60

This note is collated and edited by NRW from submissions from Forum members and NRW staff prior to National Access Forum Meetings in order to facilitate the sharing of information.

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The British Horse Society: Mark Weston
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General interest

Review of Concordat

The BHS is concluding the review of the concordat that it has with NRW and this will be issued imminently.

Policy and Legislation

Cycle 'Racing' on Bridleways

Horse riders in various areas across Wales encounter issues with speeding cyclists both on roads and off road on the public rights of way network, the BHS is working closely with Cycling UK to produce awareness information in respect of each other's needs when using our roads and the public rights of way network. Speeding cyclists often do not give way, on bridleways, as they legally should. The fear of meeting speeding cyclists on bridleways can often lead to horse riders being displaced from bridleways onto the road network.

The proposed Wales 360 six day mass participation off road cycling event in 2019, is causing horse riders grave concerns because of the amount and length of bridleways that will be used for the event, over 500km of bridleways, trails and roads have been recced. The BHS is in discussion with the organisers to ensure that participants are aware of their legal obligations to horse riders on bridleways, and that they know how to pass riders safely on the road.

Campaigns and Events

Ride Out UK Month May 2018

Detail: This May sees the return of Ride Out UK Month, our celebration of all things related to hacking out. With events organised throughout the country to raise awareness of access and rights of way. Thorowgood are kindly sponsoring the event. Various events will place during May including a ride at the National Trust's Dolaucothi Gold Mines on 3 June.

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General interest

Membership 'Roadshow'

Our management team has been touring Wales during February and March in a 'roadshow' aimed at listening to the views of our members and clubs. Feedback so far from the tour (and a membership survey that preceded it) suggests that (lack of) access to waterways in Wales is the most important issue for paddlers in Wales (followed closely by a desire for greater grassroots support). This feedback will inform the development of our next 5-year strategy, which is currently underway.

Man-made hazards on the Usk & Wye

We are making little progress with the issue we reported at the last meeting: the emergence of new 'board-walks' on the Rivers Usk and Wye which present potential life-threatening hazards to canoeists. The photograph (looking upstream) shows one of the walkways at Llanspyddid on the Usk in low water conditions. In higher conditions, these boards are covered by flowing water and there is a significant risk that a capsized paddler, swimming for safety towards the bank, could get their feet entrapped between the boards and the bedrock, with little chance of escape in strong flows.



The principal difficulty here is that, despite our concerns being raised through several channels, there is currently no effective mechanism or forum for even discussing with the relevant stakeholders how these risks should best be managed. We are, however, grateful that the local NRW Operations Manager is exploring possible mechanisms and both the Brecon Beacons and Powys Local Access Forums have expressed their concerns to their relevant authorities – although we have little expectation that this will result in a swift resolution.

Some Good News!

The 'Going Green for a Living' project in Newtown has just received £1.1m lottery funding for a project which will, among other things, see purpose-built canoe access

points on the River Severn in the town centre. Welshpool Canoe Club is leading the paddlesport element of this project, with support from Canoe Wales.

Policy and Legislation

British Canoeing, our UK 'umbrella' NGB, is developing a **Waterways & Environment Charter** which will set out a vision for "a general right of access to water in England and Wales", supported by a campaign of political lobbying. We are working closely with them as they develop this strategy, which will support the Welsh Government's proposals for improved access to inland waterways and aim to achieve similar legislative proposals for England.

Funding & Resources

In common with most sports, we are facing a cut in our core funding from Sports Wales over the coming years, which will make it even more difficult for us to focus as much attention as we would like on improving access and developing grassroots participation. Our 5-year strategy will therefore be looking at ways to increase our membership and develop additional sources of income.

Disabled Ramblers: Arthur Lee

arthur@disabledramblers.co.uk



General interest

Disabled Ramblers AGM

Sunday 13th May 2018 12pm to 6pm

Bakewell Agricultural Centre, Agricultural Way, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AH

Policy and Legislation

GDPR - General Data Protections Regulation.

A lot of work being undertaken to ascertain how these regulations coming into force at end of May 2018 will affect Disabled Ramblers.

Campaigns and Events

2018 Disabled Ramblers Rambles Programme now available.

Sadly, NO rambles in Wales this year.

Glandŵr Cymru - the Canal & River Trust in Wales: Andrew Stumpf

andrew.stumpf@canalrivertrust.org.uk



General interest

You can still watch Tim & Pru's visit to the Mon & Brec on the last ever episode:
<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/great-canal-journeys/on-demand/65396-006>

Policy and Legislation

A public consultation into future development around the **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal World Heritage Site**, in North Wales, has now closed but the material can still be viewed online at <https://www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk/world-heritage-status/resources/consultations/> Feedback is being reviewed and appraised before the next stage after the Spring. The same consultants are revising and developing the World Heritage Site Management Plan for the whole Site

One to watch - Mental Health-Focused Social Prescribing Pilot: The third sector in Wales has been invited to submit bids to run a mental health-focused social prescribing pilot between April 2018 and 31 March 2021. A key aim is to test social prescribing in a practical setting in Wales over one or up to three projects covering at least two pilot areas one of which must be in the Valleys.

Water has often been discussed in the context of canals and Natural Resources Wales has issued notification of **implementation of licenses** for previously exempt abstractions. For its own operational reasons, Welsh Water is already undertaking the works that would be required to enable compensation flows to be released in support of the canal. The Trust is likely to apply to the next round of the Rural Development Programme to develop a Water Management Strategy for the canal.

Funding & Resources

The **Swansea Canal** Society has finished the tarmac footpath from Coed Gwilym Bridge to Clydach Lock, greatly improving access between Trebanos and Clydach.

On the **Monmouthshire & Brecon canal** Gilwern Community Council secured £19k via section 106 funding for towpath improvements between Br102 – Br105. Additional funding is being sought for this well used section of towpath. The towpath upgrade will be completed via the Trust's third party works process by autumn 2018.

With approval of Rural Community Development Fund and Welsh Government funding £360k will be invested in the **Montgomery Canal** towpath. With the work being undertaken by Community Payback between Arddleen and Burgedin top lock, just 3,500 metres of path will remain to complete the whole of the Welsh section.

Campaigns and Events

1st May Cross Party Group on Waterways – topic TBC. 6.30pm

Staffing

Policy & Public Affairs Manager Recruitment

<https://careers-canalrivertrust.icims.com/jobs/5284/policy-%26-public-affairs-manager-%28wales%29/job>

We are now recruiting a Policy & Public Affairs Manager into a new role to lead on building extensive political influence, policy support and advocacy (supporter base) in Wales. A proven policy and public affairs professional with solid track record of success gained in a complex influencing and communications environment

The role will be part of a new Policy and Public Affairs team and will work closely with a new Director (Wales and South West).

Seeking Trustees

Having established ourselves as a major new charity, the Canal & River Trust is on a journey to deliver ambitious new plans and now seeks to appoint two new Trustees to join its respected and accomplished Board. This is an exciting opportunity for talented individuals who may have a passion for the waterways or just a love of the outdoors and a desire to improve lives and make a difference to the nation's wellbeing. We anticipate that successful candidates will have a variety of previous senior experience."

<http://www.saxbam.com/appointment-details/1128-trustee>

Closing date Monday 12th March

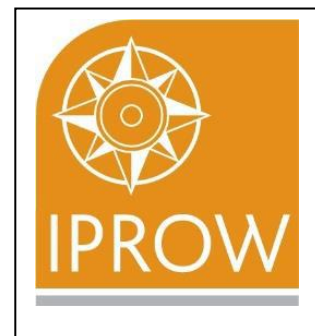
IPRoW: Ruth Rourke

www.iprow.co.uk

Policy and Legislation

Guard Llamas

Guarding sheep and other livestock is something that a llama can excel at since the llama takes on the role of lead sheep, watches out for danger, herds the sheep away from that danger and if necessary chases the danger away if it is a dog or fox. However IPRoWs has received information that such Llamas had acted aggressively to users on rights of way. We have been in touch with the British Llama Society and they will now be amending their guidance leaflet to ensure Guard Llamas are not kept where a right of way exists.



BREXIT and Farm Subsidies.

The BHS, Byways and Bridleways Trust, Open Spaces Society and Ramblers Association have looked at proposals for the redirection of agricultural funds to give public benefit post Brexit. IPRoW recently attended a meeting with them to discuss their ideas. Lack of any cross compliance in Wales currently is a concern and is seen as detrimental to access in Wales. It is good that the opportunity is being taken to consider such matters and it is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to fulfil their access aims.

DEFRA has produced a consultation “Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit”, which invites views on their proposals for future agricultural policy. Deadline is 8 May 2018. This would set the basic framework and policy for whole of UK., from which the Welsh Government will then be able to set its own policies and subsidies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>

Members might also wish to note that the Data Protection Act changes to the way in which data is held and period it is retained etc comes in to force shortly.

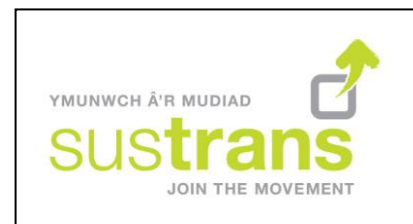
DEFRA has a consultation out on cost recovery regulations for rights of way orders.

Sustrans Cymru – Gwyn Smith

gwyn.smith@sustrans.org.uk

Regional Development Program (RDP)

As previously reported, Sustrans has funding to develop schemes to close gaps in the National Cycle Network (NCN). The funding is all revenue based but part of our work will be seeking funding so that this work becomes reality and not just a report on the shelf. We are working on 8 schemes. Conwy, Flint (x2), Narberth (Pembrokeshire), Pontarddulais (Swansea), Garw Valley (Bridgend), Brynmawr (Blaenau Gwent) and Usk (Monmouthshire). Each project is at a different stage and this varies from the beginning of land negotiations in Pontarddulais to submitting planning applications on the Usk scheme.



Here is an example of what alignment the route in Brynmawr might take

<https://www.relive.cc/view/1038030611>

Tunnels

There is still lots of interest in disused railway tunnels. The Tregarth Tunnel has now been open for almost a year and data collected from it (such as electricity costs) will help to shape programs for opening up other tunnels such as the Rhondda and Abernant.

Sustrans has been assisting the Rhondda Tunnel Society with its business plans and we are very pleased to hear that the society has received funding to carry out a detailed structural survey.

We have also been working with Merthyr council to look at opening the Abernant tunnel and we have recently completed a study looking at the potential running costs of this tunnel which is over 2.2km long. A visit and drive through the tunnel has recently been carried out for councillors and AM's and all visitors were impressed with the excellent condition of the structure considering it was opened in 1853. Bats surveys have begun and we are very close to securing funding to carry out a full structural survey.

Tram Road Trails

Is a study being carried out for Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent councils on the old tram roads between Bute Town, near Rhymney and Talybont-on-Usk. This has proved to be a fascinating area to visit as the landscape transforms from urban/industrial to the Brecon Beacons National Park, all connected with these 200 year old tramways.

Policy and Legislation

Active Travel Act.

The next stage has now been completed and submitted to Welsh Government (WG). This is the INM stage (Integrated Network Map) which sets out local authority plans for the next 15 years and is a mix of upgrading routes and constructing new ones to encourage active travel. It now remains to be seen what WG thinks of the submissions.

Future Active Travel spending

Sustrans' recently published Bike Life report <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bikelife> was the UK's biggest assessment of cycling in seven major UK cities including Cardiff. Our research found a considerable difference in spending levels across the seven cities ranging from £25 per capita in Bristol to just £4 per capita in Cardiff. The research also found overwhelming public support for investment, with 79% of those sampled by ICM in Cardiff liking to see more money spent on cycling. Bike Life went on to highlight the return on investment spending on cycling creates. Current spend in Cardiff delivers a £28m total benefit to the city including a saving for the NHS of £699,000 annually (equivalent to the average salary of 30 nurses); and taking 11,008 cars off the capital's roads each day (equivalent to a 33 mile tailback).

Whilst the government can be rightly proud of the landmark legislation it passed, funding for active travel compares poorly. Therefore we are recommending an increase investment to £10 per capita per annum for the financial year 2018/19, rising to £15 by 2019/20 and £20 by 2020/21. £20 by 2020 would not only provide the certainty and sustainability that delivery bodies including local government

require, but would also send a strong political signal that this government is truly committed to delivering the Active Travel Act.

Rail

We have been working with all the possible companies (only two now) that are bidding for the new rail franchise to ensure active travel measures are intrinsic to their proposals and we have agreements with them all to assist them in the development of networks in the future

We have also carried out some work for the south east Wales local authorities looking at where best to spend money on infrastructure to encourage active travel to stations. This innovative modelling work has been well received and we are about to start on the second phase of the project. The outcome of the work will give valuable data to the region on where best to spend limited resources and have the biggest impact

2018 promises to be a very interesting year with a number of new projects on the pipeline. More of that at our next meeting

Social Media

Up to date news can always be found on our Facebook and twitter feeds and we would welcome appropriate content from anyone if we can fit it in.

Welsh Local Government Association

mark.stafford-tolley@powys.gov.uk

Policy and Legislation

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) Consultation

There is no further update, but it is expected that a Minister Statement will be provided in the near future.

The Road Traffic Act 1988 (Motor Racing) (Wales) Regulations 2018

Under s.12A Road Traffic Act 1988, a motorsport event will now be able to race or trial of speed on a public highway (including public rights of way) under a "Motor Racing Order" authorised by the Highway Authority. This came into effect from the De-Regulation Act 2015, but it needed secondary legislation to enact it within Wales.

The Welsh Government has now provided the secondary legislation, and this came into force on 2nd February 2018.

Planning Policy Wales: Edition 10

Welsh Government is [consulting](#) on the above document in light of the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The deadline for submissions is 18th May 2018.

Funding & Resources

Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding

This Welsh Government funding is expected to finish in April 2018, and has always been considered as a top up to assist Local Authorities with their duties and powers in the provision of public access. This will undoubtedly mean that there will be an increased pressure on the Local Authorities' budgets in the future to provide for public access.

It is expected that grant funding allocation under the NRW Competitive Funding allocation and Welsh Government's Green Infrastructure grants will be important to deliver works that would otherwise have been funded by the ROWIP funding.

YHA Cymru/Wales: Rowland Pittard

rowlandpittard5@yahoo.co.uk

YHA Cymru/Wales responded to The [Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee's](#) post-legislative scrutiny of the Active Travel Act. YHA expressed concern that funding and developments for Right of Way Improvement Plans and Active Travel were not joined up and used different funding streams. YHA considered that there should be provision for Active Travel routes to join communities and also support leisure activities.

YHA is responding to the Heritage, Tourism and Recreation sections of the draft Wales National Marine Plan. YHA considers that the sections including Education including the varied physical nature of the Welsh Coastline (Geology) should also be included in the draft. The Wales Coast Path now forms an essential component of the Welsh Coastline and its recreation and health benefits should be clearly stated in the plan. Access to the Coast Path on foot and by public transport could also be included. YHA also considers that there should be a range of affordable accommodation available along the coast and not just high quality hotels.

YHA is a member of the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes and supports its proposition to the Environment Minister with regard to the role of Welsh Designated Landscapes in post Brexit Wales. Access to these landscapes and their economic value is included in the proposition.

YHA's latest edition of # Live More YHA features Cardiff as a must place to visit. The hostel is actually located adjacent to the Wales Coast Path

NRW: Rachel Parry

Rachel.Parry@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Least Restrictive Access

Since publishing the revised Least Restrictive Access Guidance, we have continued to work with the Sensory Trust to develop a training programme for our recreation site staff and our recreation and access partnerships staff. These will be rolled out early in the new financial year. We hope to make the training guidance available to others at a later date.

New family friendly MTB route

We have been successful in our bid to Visit Wales for funding to develop a new family friendly (blue) MTB route at our Bwlch Nant yr Arian site in mid Wales. Coupled with the new MTB skills area, opened last year, this will contribute significantly to broadening our visitor market in Mid Wales and help strengthen Wales' position as a world class MTB destination.

NRW: Joe Roberts

Joseph.Roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Art in the Outdoors

We have also been successful in our bid to Visit Wales to develop an artwork at the midway point of the Wales Coast Path in New Quay. Working with the Local Authority, the town council, Coast Path officers and an artist (employed by the funding) we are commissioning a bespoke piece of art that will add value to the visitor experience along the path, inspire others to use the WCP for a hike or a ramble and help interpret our coast for the Year of the Sea 2018.

Additionally we have begun to work with the National Theatre of Wales and are looking forward to hosting a NTW sponsored artists residency at one of our sites in the Autumn this year. Discussions are ongoing so watch this space!

Wild Seas Wales

Working with our Marine colleagues in NRW and with a consortium of stakeholders, including the coastal Local Authorities and National Parks, we are facilitating the development of a digital portal to encourage responsible recreational behaviours on our coasts and seas. Linking to existing Marine and coastal Codes, the portal will signpost good practice, provide information on activities and events and provide a joined up approach to responsible use of our marine and coastal environments.

NRW: Mary Galliers

Mary.Galliers@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Our Special Places by the Sea

To support the Year of the Sea, we are publishing a leaflet and web pages featuring our top ten National Nature Reserves and woodland sites by the sea. Aimed at the general, or day-out, visitor the leaflet will be available at the end of March 2018 and the web pages are already here:

<http://naturalresources.wales/days-out/things-to-do/year-of-the-sea/top-ten-places-by-the-sea/?lang=en>

New leaflet - Forests and National Nature Reserves in South Wales

This new leaflet features the best forests and National Nature Reserves for a day out in South Wales that are managed by NRW. The leaflet is aimed at the general visitor and will be in the same format as the leaflets we have already produced for Mid Wales and North Wales. It includes details of walking trails, cycling trails and accessible facilities at each site, along with information about the Countryside Codes, National Trails, the Wales Coast Path and Traveline Cymru. It will be published by Easter and will be distributed to tourist information centres and NRW visitor centres.

NRW: Bronia Bendall

Bronia.Bendall@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Increasing physical activity levels in Wales

Following on from a Ministerial request before Christmas, Public Health Wales, Sports Wales and ourselves have begun to develop a joint approach to actions and measures to increase physical activity levels in Wales. This partnership approach is in the early stages but will provide key objectives, actions and measures which the three organisations will collaborate on to deliver and evaluate progress.

Welsh Government: Gillian Otlet

gillian.otlet@gov.wales

Review of Sports Facilities in Wales

Purpose

1. To draw your attention to the review of sports facilities in Wales that is currently underway, to provide a brief over-view of progress to-date and to ask for your contribution.

Context

2. Following the decision by Cabinet in July 2016 not to bid for 2026 Commonwealth Games, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure (now Transport) announced a review of sports facilities in Wales. This work will run until the end of the summer 2018.

3. The aim of this work is to consider how to increase the spread of world class venues across the country that would also benefit the local community (as well as elite and performance athletes).
4. The review process has been divided in to two parts: a review of elite and performance facilities; followed by a wider review of community-based facilities.

Review Process

5. An independent sports-consultant was commissioned to undertake the review of elite and performance facilities in Wales. Their findings – on training facilities and facilities with the capacity to host major and mid-level sporting events - are being considered by officials at the moment.
6. Work is also underway looking at community-based facilities. There have been two key aspects to-date:
 - Last year Sport Wales commissioned a refresh of the information they hold about sports facilities in Wales. This up-dated evidence base is being explored further by Sport Wales. Analysis is also being undertaken looking at how a person’s socio-economic and other characteristics can predict the types of sports facilities they are likely to use, and therefore map gaps in provision by reviewing population distribution across Wales.
 - A wider call for evidence was also undertaken last year, and conversations were held with a range of stakeholders including local authority chief executives and the heads of sport and leisure, national governing bodies, public sector stakeholders and counterparts in Sport England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The themes emerging from these conversations are being shared with the Insight Team at Sport Wales as part of the analysis of the national “Conversation”.

Next steps

7. While this review of sports facilities focuses on the traditional built environments in which sport is undertaken, it is clear that not all physical activity takes place in traditional leisure centres or formalised courts and pitches. It is also clear that outdoor recreation can make a significant contribution to physical and mental well-being. As part of the next steps of this review of sports facilities in Wales I would like to ask for your views.
 - What sport and active recreation facilities do you believe are likely to be the most effective to encourage increased participation?
 - Should any groups of people, or geographical area, be given priority to ensure they have access to those sports facilities?
8. I would be very pleased to hear your views on these questions and look forward to meeting you at the next NAFW meeting. If you would prefer to e-mail me, my contact details are: gillian.otlet@gov.wales

Glastir Permissive Access

The Glastir scheme aims to provide specified goods for the benefit of the public, which include the provision of permissive access. The high level benefits sought from providing permissive access include:

- Improved health and well-being from people being more active as a result of recreational access and associated information that better meets their needs and by overcoming limitations to existing provision.
- Increased economic benefits from existing strategic access routes through enhancing the attraction of those routes and providing better links to local services.
- Improved networks of recreational routes and associated access provision in an area that increase or improve people's use and enjoyment of the local area.

The access provisions within Glastir scheme will be built on existing public access; such as public rights of way and open access, and including land dedicated by Natural Resources Wales. The access areas and linear routes aim to provide:

- Additional link routes and facilities to the existing national trails and the Wales Coast Path.
- Links between off-road trail centres (multi-user routes).
- Long distance bridleways across Wales (multi-user routes).
- Continued use of permissive access routes provided under Tir Gofal that are supported by the Local Access Forums and/or the Local Authority.

The Glastir permissive access includes footpaths, bridle paths and permissive access areas etc. [You can use the attached link to locate Glastir permissive access opportunities.](#)

For further information contact: GlastirTargetedElementQueries@gov.wales

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