



Contributions: NAFW 61

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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General interest

Suitable off-road provision

It has recently been reported that a bridleway in Cosmeston Park in the Vale of Glamorgan has been resurfaced with slippery tarmac. It has discouraged riders from trying to use it and they are back on a fast and dangerous road between Cardiff and Barry until they can access the park but at the same time it is encouraging cyclists to go faster along the bridleway. The British Horse Society advisory leaflet on surfacing can be found at:

[Surfaces](#) (for additional information on 'tarmac' surfaces, see Horses and Highway Surfacing below)

[Horses and Highway Surfacing - a guidance note for highway authorities](#) - Stone Mastic Asphalt ('Tarmac') is not a recommended surface for horse use even with treatment as recommended in the guidance note. The BHS would always urge alternatives being used where possible.

Unofficial events causing disruption

An unofficial mountain biking competition held in South Wales at the end of March has highlighted issues for horse riders and other users when events are held without suitable organisation and permissions - causing disruption to other users, preventing usual access and raising concerns about damage to routes.

There is concern that with WALES 360 being given the blessing of the Welsh Government that more and more of these unofficial events may start taking place. What can be done to prevent these unofficial events from taking place?

Irresponsible dog walkers

Issues have been raised in relation to irresponsible dog walking. An example has been reported of a 'professional' dog walker, with up to about a dozen dogs, off the lead chasing horses and others in the woods on several occasions. Unfortunately it is difficult and often impossible to identify these transgressors of all sectors and it is considered that much more publicity should be given out by groups such as NRW, Cycling UK, BHS and Kennel Club as well as local cycling groups, bridleways groups, etc about the problems that result for the majority of legitimate users who just want to enjoy quiet recreational use of an area without feeling that they are being put in danger.

The BHS has produced a leaflet, in conjunction with The Association of Chief Police Officers and The Blue Cross. Called '[Look at it from my point of view](#)', it aims to explain each animal's reactions and gives advice on how to use common exercise areas and pass each other as safely as possible.

Working with Cycling UK

The majority of cyclists are responsible people who show consideration for other users but it is the few irresponsible ones who are causing the problems and these are the ones that are remembered. In addition to endangering other users, there are irresponsible people causing damage to the local natural environment by chopping down tree branches to make a 'jump' across a path and even digging trenches to make obstacles on paths for their own enjoyment.

The BHS is working with Cycling UK to highlight certain aspects of responsible behaviour of both users, and how to pass each other as safely as possible to improve each other's enjoyment of routes.

Obviously since 1968 cyclists have been allowed to use bridleways - but only on condition that they give way to horse riders and walkers that they may meet on the paths. This is not happening much these days.

Policy and Legislation

NRW/BHS Concordat

This is now at the stage where both parties are ready to sign and complete the Concordat, which is a very welcome document.

Funding & Resources

Advisory Leaflets

The Society's access advisory leaflets can be found at <http://www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/free-leaflets-and-advice>

Campaigns and Events

British Horse Society's Dead Slow virtual reality film

The British Horse Society's Dead Slow Campaign has worked with many partners to increase the safety of horses and horse riders on the roads. The Dead Slow messages are to educate and influence driver behaviour on how to pass horses safely.

The BHS's Horse Accidents website reported from November 2010 to March 2018 that there were 2,902 road incidents involving horses. The incidents include any near miss or collision with a horse.

Since the start of horseaccidents.org.uk, there have been reports of 39 riders killed, 230 horses killed or euthanized because of their injuries. 85% of these incidents have been where the vehicle has passed too close or too fast to the horse.

The four Dead Slow messages are:

- Slow down to a maximum of 15 mph
- Be patient, I won't sound my horn or rev my engine
- Pass the horse wide and slow, at least a car's width (if possible)
- Drive slowly away

The Society's brand new virtual reality film that will involve drivers and other road users with an experience that emphasises the key safety messages. This vital initiative uses technology to ensure that drivers understand how they can ensure the safety of horses and riders as vulnerable road users on the road.

Viewing the film gives you the alarming first-hand experience of being on a horse as a vehicle passes too close. The film also demonstrates what drivers experience when approaching a horse in a vehicle that is going too fast.

In the last scene, viewers are in a car with BBC Sports presenter Lizzie Greenwood-Hughes, Lizzie then explains how to pass a horse using the Dead Slow messages to ensure everyone stays safe, including the horse, rider and driver.

We would be happy to demonstrate this at a future meeting of the Forum.

Ride Out UK Month

The Society's Ride Out UK month which is held in May every year raises awareness of off-road riding and applauds the fantastic efforts of the BHS volunteers, local authorities and organisations who protect and restore multi-user routes across the UK.

Events took place across Wales raising £500 for the Society's Paths for Communities Fund.

Wales 360

Starting in July 2019, SWEETSPOT- a firm based in Surrey - are planning a series of 6 day cycling events in Mid and North Wales. The aim is to get from 500 to 1000 cyclists competing, not just from Britain but from other countries too. Over 62% is off-road, mainly on PROW while 29% is using minor roads and rural lanes.

Although it is stated that this is not a race, there will be timed sections with riders sent off in pairs.

There are several questions which arise from these plans.

1. What will be the effect for other legitimate users who may want to use these routes at the same time?
2. Will all the competitors have to have at least 3rd Party Insurance in case of accidents/incidents with other legitimate users?
3. Who will be responsible for the repairs to damaged surfaces of PROW which may arise from the large number of cyclists using them? Local Authorities will not have the funds to do so.

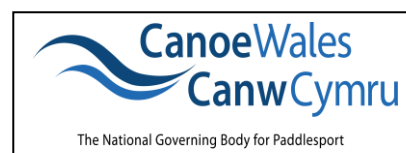
The British Horse Society is liaising with Sweetspot to address these issues and to ensure that entrants are fully aware of their responsibilities to other users of the public rights of way network and especially equestrians.

Staffing

Volunteers

The Society currently has 31 volunteer Access and Bridleways Officers in Wales.

Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner OBE
waterways@canoewales.com



General Interest

Development of our next 5-year strategy is currently underway, in which improving access for paddlesport to waters in Wales will be one of our key priorities.

River Wye Glasbury-Hay

On 1 April, the owner of Llanthomas Fishery (at Llowes, between Glasbury and Hay) introduced a 'paddle permit', whereby he is attempting to levy a fee of £3 for paddlers passing through his fishery. Members of the British Canoeing Access Advisory Group have subsequently reviewed the historical evidence of navigation on the Upper Wye and their research, published by River Access for All, suggests that a Public Right of Navigation (PRN) exists on the Wye upstream of Hay (although this research has already been disputed by some parties).

The Welsh Government and the Environment Agency (navigation authority for the Wye below Hay) have declined to confirm the existence (or non-existence) of this PRN and have suggested that this is a matter for the courts to decide. Powys County Council has, however, "been asked to consider long-term management of commercial use of the river for canoeing" and we wait to see what their review might entail.

We are confident that the fishery owner (who is not the riparian owner) does not have the right to levy this 'toll' on river users. Nevertheless, he has sent one local canoe hire company an invoice for £2000 for craft passing through his property in April and seems determined to pursue his claim. Whatever the outcome, this case could establish a significant precedent for future recreational access to rivers in Wales.

Policy and Legislation

We are disappointed by the Welsh Government's recent statement in relation to its SMNR consultation that: "There were strong but differing views on how best to reform access legislation. We therefore believe that now is not the right time for substantive reform". We assume that this statement applies to the proposals relating to inland

waterways. In the light of this announcement we will be reviewing, with British Canoeing (our counterpart in England), how best we can continue to pursue improved access for paddlesport on inland waterways in Wales.

In the meantime, Canoe Wales remains committed to working with relevant stakeholders to develop fair and equitable shared use arrangements on the few rivers in Wales where these may be necessary. In this respect, we welcome WG's commitment to "continue to facilitate further discussions [on access to inland waterways] through established groups such as the National Access Forum" and look forward to NAFW, LAFs and other statutory forums playing a proactive role in addressing this issue.

Funding & Resources

We are still currently able to commit only 0.2FTE officer time to pursuing access and environmental issues. However, we have recently appointed three volunteer members to our Waterways & Environment Committee who will be able to offer expertise and regional support in this area of work.

Staffing

We have recently appointed three part-time Development Officers who will be working regionally across Wales to support clubs, activity centres and schools to increase participation in paddlesport.

Elan Valley Trust: David Owen Evans
dowenevans@hotmail.com



General interest

Elan Links is a Heritage Lottery funded scheme which aims to secure the heritage and boost opportunities in the Elan Valley. 3.3million will be invested across 26 projects between 2018 and 2023.

Four projects relating to the Elan Links Access and Recreation plan are being carried out this year with funding from Welsh Government's Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme:

- Opening up access to inaccessible and/or underutilised sites and they including Dol y Mynach Dam (& bird hide), Dam Busters testing site at Nant y Gro, World War II pillboxes, Cwm Elan mine and creating a dark sky hub.
- Family Friendly Elan – this involves creating three hubs (Nantgwyllt, Claerwen & Penbont) where access will be improved and new routes developed and promoted. The heritage and special features of each hub will be interpreted.

- Elan Woodland Cycle Trail – this will create a more challenging blue grade trail in Llanerchi Woods around 10km in length.
- Elan Destination Signage – improving provision of brown tourism signs and information boards including dark sky information boards.

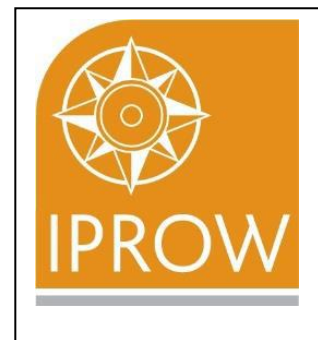
For further information please contact Jen Newman who is Access and Recreation Officer for the Elan Links Partnership: jen.newman@elanvalley.org.uk

IPRoW: Ruth Rourke

www.iprow.co.uk

Policy and Legislation

[Guidance on procedures for considering objections to definitive map and public path orders](#) and the Schedule 14 notes and form have been updated with GDPR changes.



[Designated landscapes \(national parks and AONBs\): 2018 review](#)

[Works on common land and deregistering common or village green land](#) of which [Common land guidance sheet 4: car parks, access roads, tracks and footpaths](#) is most relevant

NFU Cymru: Rachel Lewis-Davies

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General Interest

Dog walkers reminded to ‘bag it and bin it’



NFU Cymru is receiving increasing reports from our members of outbreaks of Neospora in cattle. These are coming from all areas of Wales and include the Wales Coast Path which is popular with walkers.

Dogs can carry a disease called Neospora. Neospora does not harm the dog and often goes undetected, but unfortunately it does harm cattle and sheep. Pregnant cattle and sheep are particularly susceptible to the disease which can cause them to abort their unborn young.

The disease is found in dog faeces, which can contaminate the animals' grazing pasture. This is why it's important that dog owners always pick up after their dogs. Dog owners are also encouraged to keep their dogs away from animal food and water troughs as they can spread the disease that way as well. Dogs can also carry Cystic Tenuicollis (CT) which can be passed to sheep in the same way. This can affect the production efficiency of the individual animal and lead to part or total rejection of the carcass at the abattoir.

The impacts of both Neospora and CT can result in significant costs and distress for farmers. We are, therefore, keen to raise awareness of this issue to representatives of the National Access Forum for Wales with the aim of promoting the 'bag it and bin it' message to dog owners.

Ramblers Cymru
Rebecca.Brough@ramblers.org.uk



General interest

Paths for People – pilot projects

Ramblers volunteers and staff are working with Welshpool Town Council to pilot our Paths for People toolkit. The Town council has enthusiastically embraced the project and are moving quickly on refreshing a series of walks previously designed and published over 10 years ago. Route surveys and some maintenance work has been undertaken and a volunteer recruitment/ local information day is being planned for September. Powys County Council are also supporting this project by enabling the path volunteers to be trained, equipped and covered under their volunteering scheme.

Policy and Legislation

Green Infrastructure

We have been invited to join the Welsh Government's Green Infrastructure Working Group. This is significant given the end of Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding and the ability of Council to secure funds for path improvements via the Green infrastructure route. We have concerns that this has not been clear and the paths aren't being given adequate attention as a crucial part of green infrastructure.

Path Signage

At our recent Welsh Council members voted for a motion instructing Ramblers Cymru to press Welsh Government on the issue of missing signpost where paths leave the road. We are currently developing a campaign plan relating to this and wider path issues

Funding & Resources

Peoples Postcode Lottery

Ramblers are now a direct beneficiary of Peoples Postcode Lottery. Ramblers Cymru has secured funds to help support our work around path maintenance and the Paths for People Project over the coming 12 months.

Campaigns and Events

Big Welsh Walk 2018

This year's Big Welsh Walk brought 150 walkers from across the UK to Ceredigion, with the majority travelling from outside Wales. We worked closely with Ceredigion Council to improve the local footpaths leaving a legacy of improved routes in the local area.

Campaign: Agricultural Subsidies

Ramblers GB colleagues are currently planning a campaign linked to agricultural subsidies and our call for post-Brexit agricultural support to recognise and support access as a public good. Ramblers Cymru are working closely with London team to tailor the messages appropriately for the Welsh context.

Staffing

Paths for People Posts

As part of the funding mentioned above, we will shortly be recruiting to a number of fixed terms posts to support our project, policy and influencing work linked to paths and increasing community involvement in their upkeep.

Sport Wales

steven.morgan@sport.wales



Policy and Legislation

Vision for Sport in Wales

Following consultation with the members of the National Access Forum at the last meeting in Bangor, comments and feedback was included in the second phase consultation on the 1st Draft of the Vision for Sport in Wales.

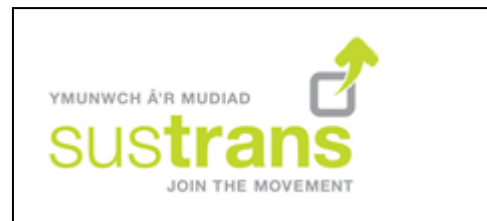
The consultation has now been concluded and the Vision will be officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and The Minister for Welsh Language, Culture & Sport on the 19th of July at the Garw Nant Visitor Centre in Merthyr.

The Vision entitled “A nation where everyone has a lifelong enjoyment of sport” will be jointly launched with Natural Resources Wales and Public Health Wales.

It is important to note once again that this is a vision for sport in Wales and not Sport Wales Vision. Sport Wales is currently developing a new long-term strategy on how we will contribute to the new vision for sport in Wales.

Sustrans Cymru – Gwyn Smith

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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.

National Cycle Network Review

We are carrying out a major review of the walking and cycling routes that make up the National Cycle Network.

We want to ensure National Cycle Network routes meet the highest design standards and offer the best experience to the millions of families, commuters and tourists who use them every year.

The review will set out a clear vision, purpose and direction for the Network going forward. It will also help to identify new routes and missing links, and secure a long-term strategy for the governance, funding, maintenance, promotion and mapping of the revitalised Network.

Key milestones for the review process include:

- Developing a vision for the Network
- Reviewing the physical condition of the Network
- Consulting with stakeholders
- Developing strategic improvement plans

The National Cycle Network is used by an estimated five million people a year and plays an important role in the UK in encouraging more people to walk and cycle. We want to build on its success and through this review achieve a network of safe, accessible and high-quality routes and paths that will make walking and cycling easier for everyone, regardless of their age and abilities and inspire a new generation to get on their bikes.

We are preparing detailed reports on the physical condition of the Network, based on data collected in 2016-17. The assessment criteria include:

- Flow – a user can maintain a safe and consistent 8mph on a bike
- Surface – a normal road bike to be used on the route
- Signage – a user can easily follow the route using signs only, without a map
- Safety – most people would allow an unaccompanied 12-year-old to cycle this route

Along with feedback from staff and volunteers, our regional and national teams will use this data to identify sections of routes that could be improved.

National and regional advisory panels, consisting of stakeholders including Sustrans volunteers, are meeting regularly to support the review process.

A UK-wide advisory panel is also meeting monthly to support the successful development of the National Cycle Network, which includes Chris Boardman (representing Cycling UK) and senior representatives from the following organisations:

Canal & River Trust, Department for Transport, Forestry Commission – England, Highways England, National Trust, Northern Ireland Government, Oxford City Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Ramblers, Transport for London, Transport Scotland, Welsh Government, Wheels for Wellbeing

A single Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) will be produced for the whole of the UK-wide Network, which will be held by the Sustrans executive team and reported to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis.

Each Sustrans region and nation will also have their own SIP relevant to the Network in their area. Each SIP will contain targets for improvement to the Network in order for it to meet the high-quality standard we want people to experience when using the Network, along with area plans for:

- maintenance
- funding
- community and volunteer involvement
- promotion

There are different ways for you to get involved in the review and the ongoing development of the Network. You can:

- Take part in our online user survey (more details to come)
- Be part of a user panel (more details to come)
- Join a volunteer group on your local route

Route Feasibility

Sustrans is working on a number of schemes in addition to the RDP program mentioned above. These include routes in both the Rhondda Fawr and Fach Valleys, safe routes schemes to schools in Newport and Treforest and a number of schemes in North Wales

Sustrans land ownership and structures

Sustrans owns over 1000 structures in the UK including the iconic Hengoed viaduct. After its refurbishment part of the structure that would have normally been covered in ballast was uncovered and this area has suffered from the weather over the last 14 years. So we have secured funding from the land fill tax to carry out repointing works. Which is not as easy as it sounds when trying to match the colour of the mortar on a grade 2* listed structure!

Tunnels

There is still lots of interest in disused railway tunnels. The Tregarth Tunnel has now been open for over 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 Merthyr tunnel.

Sustrans has helped the Rhondda Tunnel Society complete its business plans and a detailed structural survey is almost complete.

We have also been working with Merthyr council to look at opening the Merthyr tunnel after a successful visit by councils and AM's funding has been secured to carry out a full structural survey and the results from that will estimate costs to reopen the tunnel for walking and cycling use. This information can then be used to inform a revised business case. We also arranged a visit for Merthyr councillors to the Bath two tunnels project so that they could see a "working tunnel" and they came away very impressed with the project and full of enthusiasm for the tunnel projects in south Wales.

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 is now complete and some of the proposed routes can be viewed via viewranger <http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MTczMjEzOQ>

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. Most local authorities INM's were approved and Sustrans is assisting a number of LA's to resubmit where they were not up to standard. Most authorities will resubmit in July/August after their 12 week consultation.

Future Active Travel spending

Local authorities have been awarded a combined total of £5m this financial year for pre works on active travel schemes. This work would involve getting proposed scheme up to a standard where they are ready to construct. This can involve detailed design, planning and land purchase amount other things

A £60m spend on active travel has also been recently announced over the next 3 years. This will be spent on both strategic and local routes and potentially £10m is year marked for this year. Welsh Government has just announced the bidding process for this fund which LA's have to complete by the 13th of July.

Rail

We will be working with Kelios Amey on developing the future rail network and meetings have been set up to discuss a way ahead 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 regional on where best to spend limited resources and have the biggest impact

Social Media

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

**Wales Adventure Tourism
Organisation: Steve Rayner OBE**
swoapg@gmail.com



General Interest

Since 1 April, WATO has no longer been funded by Visit Wales but its members have decided to maintain WATO as a forum for representing the interests of outdoor activity providers across Wales. The core members remain the Charter Groups representing providers in the 3 regions (South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group, SWOAPG; Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group, POCG; and Snowdonia Active, S-A), with observers from NRW, Sport Wales, AALS, PHW, Visit Wales and The Outdoor Partnership.

WATO is either directly or indirectly involved in several projects that have potential to have a significant impact on the outdoor sector in Wales.

1. The Outdoor Alliance

Creation of The Outdoor Alliance continues as a pan-Wales forum for the entire 'outdoor sector'. Alliance members, representing a broad cross-section of the sector, met on 26 June and agreed to work together to develop Terms of Reference and Operating Principles that would enable effective collaboration across various areas, including:

- research into the effectiveness and potential of the outdoor sector to deliver well-being, prosperity and environmental goals for Wales (for which a proposal has submitted to Welsh Government);
- CPD for outdoor professionals in areas of common interest (e.g. the environment); and
- improving access for outdoor activity across Wales – to which end members were disappointed to learn that WG has elected not to pursue most of its proposals for improving access (which had been widely supported by the sector and by respondents to the WG consultation); but noted WG's intention to facilitate further discussions through the National Access Forum.

2. Adventure Smart Wales

This project has generated a 'toolkit' of resources for tourism businesses in Wales to promote 'safe adventure' to their clients:

<http://www.adventuresmartwales.com/en/home/>

3. Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) Review

A recommendation has been made to the HSE Board to replace the current AALA scheme with an industry-led alternative. However, the Board has asked for further detail on how this might work and will review the recommendation again in October.

4. South Wales “Waterfalls Country” Gorge-Walking Access

SWOAPG manages access for gorge-walking groups in “Waterfalls Country” (near Pontneddfechan / Ystradfellte) on behalf of NRW and Brecon Beacons NPA, which requires providers to sign-up to a Concordat and attend Code of Conduct training to protect the sensitive environment and local communities around the popular Sychryd and Mellte gorges.

Following withdrawal of Visit Wales core funding, SWOAPG is transitioning to a fee-based membership structure and initial indications suggest that providers are willing to pay a membership fee to enable them to maintain access through this scheme. SWOAPG is working closely with NRW and BBNPA to ensure that the scheme continues to work effectively under these new arrangements.

5. Pembrokeshire Coasteering Access

POCG manages access for coasteering on National Trust sites in SW Wales via a Concordat and briefing which all providers are required to renew annually. Authorities in Guernsey and Scotland have recently expressed interest in developing similar schemes based on this model.

S-A has developed a series of waterproof site-specific guides for outdoor providers for a range of locations in N Wales, covering a range of topics including access and environment / wildlife.

WLGA

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General interest

Blue Flag

In 1998 the first Blue Flag designated beach in Wales was awarded to Cefn Sidan beach in Carmarthenshire. This year is the 30th Anniversary of that achievement. In 2018, 47 beaches received Blue Flags in Wales (including Cefn Sidan), this achievement means that Wales has more Blue Flags per mile than anywhere else in the UK.

Environment minister Hannah Blythyn said: "We're lucky in Wales to have some of the world's finest beaches right here on our doorstep."



"It's fantastic to see so many of our beaches receiving these awards, which is testament to the work being done by our partners and communities across Wales to keep our beaches and waters clean."

It should be noted that 80% of marine litter is of terrestrial origin.

Clean Seas Wales (CSW) Partnership

The primary aim of the CSW partnership is to take forward the actions contained in the Marine Litter Action Plan. 2018 is the basis to launch this and to use the current momentum to raise awareness and engage with public, private and community sectors.

As part of the VOR, the Welsh Government and high-level businesses have signed up to the Clean Seas pledge (part of the above global campaign).

The CSW partnership proposes to develop its own website and use this as a platform to create its own pledges for individuals, town councils, schools etc. This will be monitored and be used as the basis for measuring progress on engagement and gathering case studies for future work. It will also be the basis for cross-promotion of the various campaigns and organisations working to this end. The Clean Seas Wales partnership will continue to meet to take forward specific actions but the focus for 2018 will be on awareness raising and engagement.

Each organisation or group as part of the CSW will be taking forward their own actions and campaigns which will contribute to the overall aim of tackling marine litter or raising awareness of the issue. Some of these will be localised, some of them will be national or UK wide campaigns.

Refill Wales

In May 2018, Hannah Blythyn, Minister for Environment, announced plans to consolidate Wales's place as the leading UK nation for recycling and reducing waste, as well as her ambition for Wales to be the World's first 'Refill Nation.' And that work will get underway to improve access to drinking water in public places across Wales. At the VOR the Minister announced her intention to provide a network of refills along the Wales Coastal Path. The Welsh Government will work with City to Sea on developing the Refill campaign for Wales, as well as working closely with water companies in Wales and more widely with our businesses.

Campaigns and Events

Clean seas

The Volvo Ocean Race (VOR) visited Cardiff at the 27th May through to the 10th June. The Race has been highlighting the problems associated with marine litter and specifically, PLASTIC. One of the boats in the race is aptly and deliberately named 'Turn the Tide on Plastic' it is monitoring the levels of microplastics as it races across the 4 out of the 5 oceans in the world. In 2017 the United Nations launched its 'Clean

Seas Initiative', this together with Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II has started a momentum. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/one-year-after-launch-cleanseas-tide-turning>

NRW Update on Equality and Diversity on NRW's visitor sites – July 2018



NRW's work on equality of opportunity to enjoy our sites is central to helping people live healthier and more fulfilled lives. Following the report from the Equality and Diversity assessment carried out by Phil Chambers consultancy 2 years ago on our key visitor sites, we are working through some of the key recommendations arising from this assessment and making progress on the following work areas:

Guidance on Least Restrictive Access to the Outdoors - Review

The revised By All Reasonable Means guidance on inclusive access was produced in 2017 by the Sensory Trust in collaboration with NRW. The guidance, while based on the original text, has been extended to incorporate the wider remit of the Equality Act 2010.

A Project Board comprising members of the Recreation, Health and Education team and our Equalities lead commissioned the Sensory Trust to develop the new guidance both for NRW staff and land managers in partner organisations.

We put a one year review period on the guidance to enable people to give feedback on it as they use it. Although this period closed in June this year, we expect that developments in inclusive access to the outdoors mean that for this to be a working document, we will take feedback and input on an ongoing basis.

We hope that organisations across the UK will adopt it as best practice (as was the case with the original 2005 version) both in terms of the inclusive access that it promotes and the clear language in which it is written.

Thanks to everyone who has fed back so far and please let us know if you have any suggestions for making this as useful as it can be.

Training for NRW's site staff with a recreation remit

As part of our commitment to improving equality and diversity and to illustrate the least restrictive access principles in the guidance, NRW's Recreation, Health and Education team worked with the Sensory Trust to run a series of training events this March for staff working on our sites who have a recreation/visitor experience remit. The training included outlining the relevant aspects of the Equality Act, how people with protected characteristics can benefit from changes we make on site, and practical site based elements on inclusive access auditing. The Disabled Ramblers added value to the training with their contributions and demonstrations of trampers. Equipment like this means more people being able to enjoy more challenging experiences and rethinking what accessibility means. We will be working with our learning and development team to embed this training in the NRW training programme and hope that it can be run on a regular basis.

New webpage for NRW's barrier free routes and sites

Making access as unrestrictive and inclusive as possible is not only about physical features on the ground, it is about what informs people's decision to visit and how they experience a site once they get there. Some sites may have easy access trails, but some people may feel that they cannot easily find out about these opportunities and that information and communication links are barriers to access in themselves. So we looked at the accessible/barrier free trails on NRW's estate and realised that the information about the many opportunities was scattered across our website. We really wanted to show people the opportunities we have for everyone to enjoy the outdoors across all types of landscape and so we pulled together this information onto one page. We are asking our partners to link to this page so that people with mobility problems and their friends and family can find out about this resource.

Visit

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/things-to-do/all-ability-activities/?lang=cy>

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/things-to-do/all-ability-activities/?lang=en>

to find out more about our barrier free routes.

For more information on the work we are doing on equality and diversity:

www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/gwellamynediad

www.naturalresources.wales/improvingaccess

If you have any questions please get in touch with the Recreation, Health and Education team at recreationhealth.wellbeing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

END