



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
**Natural
Resources
Wales**

Contributions: NAFW 62

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.

The British Horse Society: Mark Weston
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General interest

Cycle way Carmarthen to Llandeilo

The British Horse Society is currently working with the Council to secure access for horse riders to the £7 million pound project currently ongoing in Carmarthenshire to link Carmarthen with Llandeilo using an old railway track .

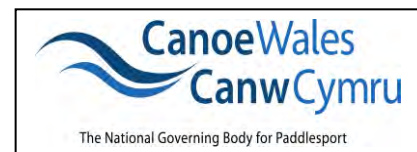
Policy and Legislation

Highway Code Review

The Society was dismayed to see that the review of the Highway Code was not going to include equestrians. Following concerted lobbying by the Society, its members and other equestrians the Society has now received assurances that the revision will include equestrians.

The Society responded to the Welsh Government Consultation Brexit and our land: Securing the future of Welsh farming.

Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner OBE
waterways@canoewales.com



Campaigns and Events

British Canoeing, our counterpart in England, launched on 28 November at a reception in Parliament its *Clear Access, Clear Waters* campaign, supported by a new Access and Environment Charter. This campaign calls on the UK Government to give greater public access to waters in England along the lines of Scotland or the proposals made by the Welsh Government in 2017.

The campaign was launched with strong support from Pauline Latham MP and John Grogan MP and included a video which explains simply and effectively why the present access situation is unacceptable: <https://youtu.be/LYWKGf6L-5k>

Although the British Canoeing Charter strictly applies only to England, Canoe Wales has been fully engaged in its development and shares its core pledges:

In support of the 3 pledges British Canoeing makes within the Charter, Canoe Wales will commit to...

1. Champion the case for fair, shared, sustainable open access on and along inland waters to be confirmed in law

- Canoe Wales will continue to press the Welsh Government to implement, sooner rather than later, the proposals for access reform that it set out in 2017. We met with the Minister for Environment Hannah Blythyn on 1 October. She listened attentively but reiterated that “now is not the right time for substantive reform” (because the Government is busy preparing for Brexit) and stated that she would be setting out her intentions more fully by the end of this year. However, she did encourage us to suggest ideas for how land managers might be incentivised to encourage more recreational access, so...
- Canoe Wales submitted a response to the Welsh Government’s “Brexit and our Land” consultation, calling for access to inland waterways to be recognised as a “public good” and for land managers to receive Government support to improve it.

2. Act to protect and improve the health of our rivers; working to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment

- British Canoeing joined ‘Surfers Against Sewage’ in its Autumn Beach & River Clean during October half-term. While Canoe Wales does not currently have the resources to coordinate and actively promote similar large-scale activity, we hope to join them in next year’s events. In the meantime, we fully support the great work being done by the ‘Paddlers against Pollution’ Facebook group to highlight and encourage volunteer effort in Wales (and beyond) and our Clubs and Members will continue to contribute to environmental clean-up and monitoring initiatives whenever and wherever they can.

3. Commit to inspire more people to be active outdoors; connecting people with their environment and promoting the benefits on our mental and physical well-being

- A key element of the new strategy is summed up by the statement in the Charter that, although “access on our waterways is a matter which has been contested for more than 60 years, we now believe that there is already a strong case to demonstrate an existing Public Right of Navigation (PRN) on all navigable rivers. Until such time as the law is clarified, either in a court or through new legislation being enacted, we will support the right of paddlers to use our inland waters and promote opportunities for everyone to participate responsibly and actively protect and enhance the places we paddle; [and] we will no longer enter into or renew restrictive agreements based on an assumption of the need for permission to navigate. However, we will remain open to genuine agreements and environmental measures to protect wildlife, guided by the principle of taking the least restrictive option.”
- This means we will no longer shy away from advertising where people go paddling and we intend to publish in due course...

- a) an exciting new online 'places to paddle' resource which will provide reliable information to paddlers about access arrangements and a wealth of other paddling-related material across the UK; and
- b) 'green guides' to some of our key rivers, providing access and environmental information to complement existing river guidebooks and online guides.

General Interest

River Wye Glasbury-Hay

Powys County Council has recently announced its intention to consult on proposals for managing commercial canoeing operating from the Council-owned launch site at Glas-y-Bont Common, Glasbury, in response to concerns expressed by fishery owners that too many boats are using the river on peak summer weekends. Canoe Wales expects to play an active role in this consultation exercise, alongside the South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group (SWOAPG) and the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC).

One fishery owner is pursuing a claim for a 'toll' of £2000 against one local canoe hire company for craft passing through his property. We are confident that the fishery owner does not have the right to levy this 'toll' and are supporting the company with advice and evidence to counter his claim. Whatever the outcome, this case could establish a significant precedent for future recreational access to rivers in Wales.

Paddler Behaviour at Wye & Usk Access Points

With the winter white-water season upon us, the volume of paddlers using our rivers at weekends has increased recently. While we of course welcome the opportunity for paddlers to get out and use the rivers, we have been disappointed by reports of inconsiderate behaviour at Wye and Usk access points by some individuals (e.g. blocking access to a school car park, urinating publicly and dragging boats over a cropped field). We will do our best to continue to encourage paddlers to act responsibly and 'earn a welcome' – e.g. by liaising with landowners and posting messages on social media and notices on site. We are acutely aware that the inconsiderate actions of a few can have significant consequences for the majority of paddlers (who do appreciate the importance of building and maintaining good relations with landowners and local communities).

River Dee, Horseshoe Falls Llangollen

We met recently with Canal and Rivers Trust staff on-site at Horseshoe Falls (near Llangollen) to consider improvements to canoe launching arrangements (with a view to providing safe and easy launching facilities below the weir, to reduce the temptation for canoeists to launch above and paddle over this dangerous weir). We agreed a plan for some canoe launching steps which would supplement the existing kayak seal-launch and we look forward to these being constructed in due course.

Staffing

We are slowly gathering a network of volunteers across Wales who will be able to support our work on access nationwide. We are encouraging our members to put themselves forward as members of Local Access Forums and now have paddlers represented on Brecon Beacons, Ceredigion and Powys LAFs (and a volunteer for the Pembrokeshire LAF).

Disabled Ramblers: Arthur Lee

arthur@disabledramblers.co.uk

Website: <https://disabledramblers.co.uk>

Draft 2019 Disabled Ramblers Programme

April 8, 9, 11, 12	Leicestershire
May 19 th	AGM in Wiltshire
May 20, 21, 23, 24	Wiltshire
June 17, 18, 20, 21	Cornwall Coast
July 8, 9, 11, 12	Southern Snowdonia, North Wales
August 26, 27, 29, 30	Dartmoor
September 9, 10, 12, 13	Scottish Borders
October 7, 8, 10, 11	Chiltern Hills

Some members of Disabled Ramblers have been interviewed as part of The Government's independent review of England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Disabled Ramblers don't ask for tarmacked paths BUT just the removal of man-made obstacles i.e. Stiles, Steps, Locked Gates, Small Kissing Gates etc. All rambles led by Disabled Ramblers are always assessed by a competent person before on a mobility scooter before members are led on these rambles.

Glandŵr Cymru - the Canal & River Trust in Wales

Email: Ceri.Davies@canalrivertrust.org.uk



General interest

Montgomery Canal Film

Life on the Monty – a new film on the heritage and stunning environment of the canal has been launched. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a wider £4 million Montgomery Canal restoration project. Its available to see here.

<https://pant.today/new-film-showcases-montgomery-canal-restoration/>

Apprentice Success

Rachael Cochrane and Liam Davies, apprentices from the South Wales Direct Services Team, reached the final for the 2018 Heritage Angels Wales for their work on the parapet repair at Brynich Aqueduct and received a special commendation at the awards on November 8th at Caerphilly Castle.

Policy and Legislation

Brexit and Our Land

The Trust continue to contribute to relevant policy and legislation the emerges from Welsh Government and other stakeholders with our most recent contribution detailing our view on “Brexit and our land”.

Water Abstraction

We are also well under way in preparing for the new water abstraction licence regime.

Funding & Resources

Swansea Canal Dredging

Continued working with Swansea Canal Society and Welsh Government with respect to RCDF funding for Swansea canal dredging programme, project value £320k. Approval awaited but expected with works expected in 2019.

Swansea Canal Restoration

WRG camp on Swansea Canal has been carried out with great success. 17 volunteers devoted 950 hours to the project and did a fantastic job repairing the bypass culvert on Upper Ynysmeudwy Locks.



Goytre Wharf

Visit Wales have confirmed the submitted Expression of Interest for funding via Tourism Amenity Investment Support (TAIS) for improvements including a new access ramp at Goytre Wharf on the M&B was successful. A full application is now required to progress the £120k grant funding request and is underway.

Campaigns and Events

Canalworks Exhibitriion

The 'Canalworks' art exhibition was launched at Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon Basin on 4th October. The exhibition celebrates the major restoration works at Llangattock on the M&B in 2017; the project which recently won this year's Living Waterways Award.

Step by Step Scheme

In partnership with Brecon Beacons National Park the Trust launched the **Step by Step project** on July 27th on the M&B – a GP referral scheme encouraging patients to use the canals on prescription for health benefits. Potential to extend the project across the Trust. Project evaluation ongoing

Welsh Local Access Forums

John Morgan, National Representative of Welsh LAF's

Joint Meeting of Welsh Local Access Forums

In addition to the quarterly meeting of the Chairs of Welsh Access Forums there is usually each year a meeting of Chairs Deputy Chairs and Local Access Forum Secretaries. This year's meeting was held on 15th November at the Royal Welsh Showground.

The issues discussed included Rights of Way improvement Plans; rights-of-way issues on NRW land; LAF relationships with NRW; recommendations for the Welsh governments amendment of LAF regulations; a protocol for any proposed LAF amalgamation proposal; the future of cross compliance. The meeting was also addressed by Julian Atkins, Chief Executive of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Attention was drawn to the Delivery Plan component as being the most immediately practical use of Rights of Way Improvement Plans. The Delivery Plan is a short term planning document which can take into account existing and immediately foreseen circumstances of finance and staffing. There was some danger of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan itself becoming excessively aspirational given the difficulties of forecasting resources and circumstances over the 10 year period of the Plan. Arising from the discussions, NRW will bring forward proposals as to how field operations managers can play a fuller role in bringing NRW access and recreational projects of a local nature to the attention of a LAF.

The Welsh government regulations concerning the governance of LAF's were written 17 years ago in the context of establishing LAF's. Amendments of the Regulations were needed to more clearly support the practical working of LAF's now that they have been established for a considerable period. The need was discussed for an amendment to make for a more expeditious selection of the LAF Chair on a Forum's reappointment. There can be a significant period between the cessation of a LAF (appointed for 3 years) and the appointment of a new LAF which can be disruptive to continuing business. This too was considered to need a new Regulation. The Regulations are not particularly clear where the amalgamation of existing LAF's is being proposed. LAFs were advised of the due process which it was felt should be followed by Appointing Authorities.

Unlike England, public rights-of-way are not included within the cross compliance measures in Wales. In a supporting paper it was considered that the varying quality of digital data on public rights-of-way was not in itself a valid reason for the Welsh Government's stance of not including public rights-of-way within cross compliance. It was suggested it could be an efficient use of resources to use local Authority officers to act as Rural Payment Officers. It would most likely get the network in better shape to provide the variety of benefits arising from improved access arrangements for the general public.

[Open Spaces Society **hq@oss.org.uk**](mailto:hq@oss.org.uk)

Policy and Legislation

Revoking the 2026 definitive map cut off

OSS looks forward to meeting the environment minister, Hannah Blythyn, in January to talk about revoking the legislation which on 1 January 2026 (only seven years away) will close the rights of way definitive map to applications based on historical

evidence; this was an uncontroversial proposal in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources consultation.

Wind turbines close to common land at Llandegley Rocks, Powys

OSS is disappointed that the Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths has overturned the recommendation of a public inquiry inspector and approved the application for wind turbines close to Llandegley Common and rocks, a popular and accessible beauty spot in Powys

Ramblers Cymru

Rebecca.Brough@ramblers.org.uk



General interest

Cambrian Way

Progress on waymarking the Cambrian Way walking trail continues, with Ceredigion, Torfaen and Carmarthenshire (outside of the National Park) now fully marked. Cardiff sections and part of Caerphilly will be waymarked next week. The Trail will feature on Coast and Country, with our President Will Renwick, on 24 December.

Policy and Legislation

Brexit and our Land

Ramblers Cymru submitted a detailed response to this consultation, supporting the Public Goods Scheme's inclusion of access and advocating for additionality through enhancements to the network.

Funding & Resources

ENRaW Funding Bid

Ramblers Cymru has submitted a bid for a 3-year project focussed on increasing community lead path maintenance activity. 20 of the 22 local authorities in Wales are partners in the bid, which proposes regional officers working to link LA's, community councils, and residents to open up local routes and improve accessibility. The project would build on our Paths for People approach, which is currently being piloted in Powys.

Healthy and Active Fund

Ramblers Cymru has also submitted a bid under the Health and Active Fund to establish the national framework to support Health Walking schemes across Wales.

Campaigns and Events

Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood

Public nominations will open shortly for our second Walking Neighbourhood Awards. This is a GB wide campaign, in its second year, and we are keen that as many Welsh places are nominated as possible. Newtown in Powys, came a very respectable 3rd last year. Further information will be on our Website in the New Year.

Wales Coast Path Festival

The Wales Coast Path turns seven next year, and Ramblers Cymru has won the bid to deliver a seven-day national walking event.

The event, which follows the Visit Wales 2019 theme 'Year of Discovery', will feature up to seven coastal walks in seven locations from north east to south east, over the first three weekends in May.

More details will follow soon, but if you have any inspiring ideas for coastal walks of discovery - whether that's stories of pirates, geology, wildlife or history, then please get in touch! Email: Catherine.morgan@ramblers.org.uk

Staffing

Communications Manager

We will shortly be recruiting a Communications and Engagement Manager for Wales. Please share with your networks when the advert is live!

Visit Wales: Kerry Thatcher

Kerry.Thatcher@gov.wales



Wales's Year of Discovery 2019

The year 2019 will see us celebrating a Year of Discovery and we will be inviting visitors to explore what makes Wales unique: the things you won't find anywhere else in the world.

Throughout the year we will

- further explore the three core themes to date – Year of Adventure, Year of Legends and Year of the Sea – focusing on our core strengths: adventure, culture and landscape.
- bring the themes together; to build multi-layered views of Wales, where these strengths coexist; and where – in places such as North Wales with its world-first adventure, World Heritage culture and outstanding natural landscape – these combine to make up our country's unique message to the world.
- create distinctive, memorable experiences in each of these areas, alongside the fundamentals of food and drink and great hospitality.

Our Visit Wales marketing activity will focus on four seasonal themes throughout 2019:

- Autumn - March: Journeys of Discovery
- March - May: Discover Adventure
- June - August: Discover Culture
- Sept - December: Discover Landscape

Make sure you engage with us on [@VisitWalesBiz](#) and [@VisitWales](#) and share your news and content throughout the year using #FindYourEpic.

Year of Discovery 2019 guidance and roadshow content now available!

We recently held a series of tourism industry roadshows to explore how Visit Wales can work with tourism businesses and partners during the [Year of Discovery](#) and to provide you with more information.

During the roadshows we shared plans for our marketing themes, gave you a flavour of the campaign creative and the content calendar for the year. The presentations and films shown at these events are now available and can be downloaded [here](#). You can also [read our practical guide](#) to the Year of Discovery which explains how you can get involved.

Organisation Name: Welsh Government

Policy and Legislation

Reform of Access to Countryside

The [Written Statement](#) and [summary of responses](#) to the consultation were published on 19 June 2018. Over 16,000 responses were received to the proposals on access alone, which reflects the passion many in Wales have for the countryside and outdoor recreation.

In the [Summary of Responses](#) (see page 44) issues are grouped into

- where there is consensus of views,
- where there are varying views and
- areas which are more controversial

Access to the outdoors brings a wide range of tangible benefits for the nation. The Welsh Government is committed to enabling more people to enjoy the countryside and coast more easily for the many health and wellbeing benefits getting outside can bring. There is a clear link between increasing access to the outdoors and the key principle that land should deliver public goods for the people of Wales.

Our long-term approach to outdoor access must promote responsible recreation, while seeking to manage conflict and reduce administrative burdens and complexity. Whenever possible there should be a greater range of opportunities available, greater harmony for how activities are restricted and regulated, and simpler procedures for designating and recording public access and how rights and responsibilities are communicated.



The Minister for Environment has been clear that she does not intend to add further uncertainty and complexity to what may be a difficult period for all concerned leading up to Brexit. Now is not the right time for substantive access reform. Nevertheless, we are keen to not lose the momentum and sense of direction we had.

The SMNR consultation has been an extremely valuable exercise to inform the direction the WG wants to take with regard to access, both through legislation and other means. The Minister will provide further detail on the reform and the approach she believes is necessary when she formally responds to the consultation in the New Year.

In her statement the Minister will set out the changes she wants to see. We will look to introduce some technical amendments at the earliest opportunity. Other areas will require more detailed consideration, to ensure we can develop proposals which are technically robust.

There is a continued commitment to work with forums like the National Access Forum.



<p>Title: Update Report on Wales Coast Path Promotion - RTEF funded work 2018-2020 Author: sionedh@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk</p>	<p>Purpose: To provide a brief and concise update on work done to date for RTEF funded works during the funding period Report Frequency: as and when required.</p>
<p>Reporting Period: April to November 2018 .</p>	<p>Circulation: WCP Promotion Partnership & WCP National Partnership</p>

Background: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNPA) has secured funding to promote the Wales Coast Path as an iconic asset for Wales to encourage more people walking more often and to develop the brand further to benefit all stretches of the Welsh coastline.

Approximately £150k has been secured via Visit Wales from April 2018 till March 2019 alongside match funding (a further £150k) to extend the promotional activity to 2021. NRW is working closely with PCNPA, the lead partner for this project throughout this period.

What’s been happening since April 2018?

- Sioned Humphreys (PCNPA) a part time marketing officer has been appointed from April 2018 till March 2020 and has met key Wales Coast Path personnel and partners to familiarise herself with Wales Coast Path governance, brand and the main aims and objectives of the path.
- The Wales Coast Path Promotion Strategy June 2018 to March 2021 has been endorsed by NRW, key promotion and path partners and Visit Wales.

Section 1: Update on planned promotion activity (as per the Wales Coast Path Promotion Strategy)

Promotional tactic and Progress	Output (measure) / Outcome (behaviour, performance, consequence)	Result
<p>Commission PR and Advertising Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Am+A in July 2018 Have held inception meeting and regular catch ups Clear slogans and hashtags for social media are being finalised. 	<p>Output Campaign ideas and plans have been drawn up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign no 1: Theme of health and well-being for autumn & winter 2018 concentrating on 4 iconic locations with 4-day hike itineraries covering Anglesey & Llyn, Aberystwyth to Cardigan/Fishguard, Pembrokeshire coastline and Gower Peninsula. Campaign no 2: National Walking event in May 2019 targeting “Family and Cultural Explorers” Press trip with Rough Guides took place in late October in Ceredigion and finished in Pembrokeshire. Advertising plan developed to support the above campaigns 	<p>#2 Rough Guides press trip - video content resulting from the trip will be used across social media channels.</p>
<p>Photography and Drone footage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Mother Goose Films in June 2018 	<p>Output Entire WCP has been covered with drone footage, stills (360 and normal), cinemagraphs have been produced. Editing and sign off under way in partnership with Visit Wales for inclusion on the Wales on View image portal by the end of the calendar year.</p>	<p>Content will be used across all the promotional tactics.</p>
<p>Walking itineraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan is being developed to capture themed itineraries 	<p>Output Series of itineraries for use in promotional activity developed by end of March 2019</p>	<p>Itineraries will be placed on WCP channels and our key partners and will be available for the B2B digital toolkit.</p>

Promotional tactic and Progress	Output (measure) / Outcome (behaviour, performance, consequence)	Result
<p>Business to Business (B2B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Spencer David in August to engage with Welsh coastal businesses to take up a Wales Coast Path digital toolkit to promote the WCP in their area Timetable of activity to engage with coastal businesses now under way 	<p>Output</p> <p>Temporary websites (one English and one Welsh) have been set up to collect coastal businesses details who are interested in the toolkit</p> <p>Draft content for toolkit has been commented on</p>	<p>Database of coastal businesses will be put together for newsletters on updates about the WCP.</p>
<p>National Walking event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Ramblers Cymru (in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy) in August 	<p>Output</p> <p>Project Plan has now been drawn up with confirmed walking locations and dates during May.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Design and branding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed View Creative for design work for promotional materials late Sept 2018 	<p>Output</p> <p>Refreshed branding guidelines done for typography and colour palette being reviewed by Visit Wales – for future promotional activity including possible merchandising opportunities.</p>	<p>Refreshed guidelines that will inform the marketing activities.</p>
<p>Digital Experience and interpretation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Peel Interactive to develop the app in late September 2018 	<p>Output</p> <p>Three themes confirmed for the app – History, Wildlife and Myths and Legends.</p> <p>Site inception meeting with key partners Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and Wildlife Trusts Wales to discuss themes of History and Wildlife for the app.</p> <p>Site meetings scheduled for mid November to agree locations and confirm themes.</p> <p>Angharad Wynne, Heritage Consultant has written the stories for the Myths and Legends</p>	<p>A clearer direction in how items on the app will be appear.</p>

Promotional tactic and Progress	Output (measure) / Outcome (behaviour, performance, consequence)	Result
	theme. Discussions with Welsh Government taken place regarding the provision of wifi at gateway sites.	
Support activity for themed years See B2B and Digital Experience update	Output -	-

Section 2: Upcoming Cross Promotional Opportunities

Cross Promotional Opportunities	Timeline / Resource implications for Wales Coast Path marketing / Local Authority / Regional Management Groups
<p>Derek Brockway in “Weatherman Walking” series.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire series will feature the Wales Coast Path. • Filming has been done on the North Wales coast and Anglesey. • Key WCP partners have been involved in the filming so far • Series will be broadcasted in early 2019. 	<p>Social media cross promotional activities leading up to and during the airing of the series – by Anglesey County Council & WCP Marketing</p>
<p>New Quay Public Art Commission A partnership project involving NRW and Ceredigion County Council funded by Visit Wales to mark the half way point of the Wales Coast Path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An artist has been commissioned to install a sculpture in New Quay • Public consultation involving NRW and the artist took place in August with positive engagement. • Finer details of the sculpture yet to be finalised to meet the creative brief. 	<p>Cross promotion on social media by WCP team & Ceredigion County Council. NRW contact: joseph.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk for more details</p>

END.