



Contributions: NAFW 56

This note is collated by NRW from submissions from NRW staff and Forum members prior to National Access Forum Meetings in order to facilitate the sharing of information. Please note that items are included as provided by their author.

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British Horse Society: Jeanne Hyett / Mark Weston

A trial of self-closing bridle gates

Report published 12 October 2016

Undertaken by Natural England in partnership with the British Horse Society

Natural England has now issued its report.

This report records the evidence collected in a trial of self-closing bridle gates that took place in September 2015. The aim of the trial was to identify the criteria that contributed to safe use and ease of use of gates whilst retaining key features, namely stock proofness and robustness. The analysis of the data is examined in the report and the discussion and conclusion present a number of key recommendations. The audience for the report is expected to be wide ranging, including bodies representing landowners and land managers, regulatory bodies, the manufacturers of gates and user groups.

Landowners have increasingly installed self-closing bridle gates in preference to non-selfclosing bridle gates; this is in order to reduce the possibility of gates being left open and stock escaping. However the British Horse Society (BHS) became aware of incidents with self-closing gates where horses or riders were injured. The BHS ran a trial of existing selfclosing bridle gates in 2011. The trial confirmed that there were problems with self-closing gates when used by horse riders. The published report made a number of recommendations including that a further trial be conducted.

The recommendations in respect of horse riders are:

The trial demonstrated that the least restrictive and safest gate for horse riders is a 2 way opening non-self-closing gate.

However, the elements associated with the safest self-closing gate are:

- 2 way opening
- Force required to open the gate of no more than 18Newtons (and preferably less)
- Closing time of 8 seconds
- Character of the gate closing the same as experienced with the delayed Prosafe 2 way hydraulic hinge in Gate 6
- Width of 1.7metres
- A handle angled towards the slam post
- If findings of the trial regarding the training video be found to be consistent with further investigation, the training video could be included in general riding training.

- A handle that facilitates control as demonstrated by the ring handle
- Gate latches use a D shaped latching mechanism

A copy of the report can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/press-centre/news/regional/south/natural-england-joint-publication-jp018-a-trial-of-self-closing-bridlegates-2015>

Dead or Dead Slow Your Choice Campaign

The Society is continuing to stress the importance of its new Road Safety Campaign for Horses and motorists.

Our National Manager for Wales, Jan Roche gave a presentation about it at the Wales LAF Conference in October. The video clips included showed some of the dangers that horses and their riders face when they have no alternative to riding on roads and country lanes, often with heavy traffic. Many drivers forget that horses are VULNERABLE ROAD USERS in the same way as walkers and cyclists - if not more so.

The presentation was well received and several LAFS have asked for more information and some have also asked if she will give the presentation at one of their own meetings.

One of our campaign slogans is 'PASS WIDE AND SLOW' with the aim that drivers should slow down to at most 10 - 15 mph when passing horses on the road.

We are also aiming to get extra information and requirements put into the Driving Test and are endeavouring to get 'Dead Slow' information onto garage forecourts.

Notices have appeared on supermarket petrol pumps and nozels.

Our BHS bridleways officers are increasing their efforts to get links into the disjointed bridleway system to avoid too much use of roads. Currently, equestrians have access to only 21% of the Public Rights of Way system in Wales and carriage drivers to only 5%.

All bridleway routes are genuinely multi-user, being open to horse riders and walkers and - since 1968 – cyclists.

Many of the other 'so-called' multi-user routes are open to walkers and cyclists but equestrians are excluded. This occurs on many of the new cycleways being developed as well as much of the National Cycle Network. Our question is 'If it is safe to allow horseriders, walkers and cyclists to share bridleways, why should it not be the same on cycleways?'

Article Times 29 October 2016

A quarter page article entitled 'Cycle Plan delayed as equestrians get on their high horse' appeared in the Times on Saturday 29 October.

It reported that there were 3,600 responses to the English Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, 1,500 of these were from equestrians, 42% of total responses. The article said that the DfT has had to delay the final publication of the cycling and walking investment strategy to consider a response.

There is a real safety need, and also the need to provide best value for the tax payer and users for equestrians, as vulnerable road users, to be included in all path /route provision, there is no sense in removing cyclists and walkers from dangerous roads but leaving equestrians in that dangerous situation to continue to have to ride on the roads which are considered too dangerous for walkers and cyclists.

British Mountaineering Council: Elfyn Jones

Report to National Access Forum for Wales November 2016

Mend our Mountains campaign

This is a fundraising campaign aimed at BMC members to “crowd-fund” the funding of upland path repairs in the national parks of England and Wales. The National Parks were asked to put forward specific path repair projects and these were then put forward to be supported by members. As of Nov 1st, a total of £104,000 has been raised by BMC members and supports. Two of the projects are in Wales – one in the Brecon Beacons - the Neuadd circuit path leading to Pen y Fan (£10,000 contributed), while in Snowdonia funds were raised to fund works on the upper part of the Watkin path on Snowdon (£12,000 contributed). Further details including videos on the Mend our Mountains website

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/campaign/mend-our-mountains>

Open Access maps on-line

At BMC we are getting several comments from members about the lack of information and clarity on identifying open access land and protected sites. Climbers seeking to develop new sites or even to climb on existing developed sites need to know about the status of the land to ensure that they do not cause damage or disturbance to the site or inadvertently trespass. The continued lack of information on NRW websites is a real issue and in a “year of adventure” when the public are encouraged to access the Welsh countryside more than ever before, the lack of up to date information as to where the public can and cannot go is frustrating. (Most OS maps have not been updated since the review of open access land years ago).

BMC Regional Access Database

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/> . This is a live on-line database of all known climbing sites in England and Wales where there are known or identified access concerns (such restrictions due to nesting birds or other protected species, limited access, landowner conflict or other issues). This has been running for several years but is now very dated. We have been working to develop this to include not only the known sites with access issues but have attempted to record all known climbing venues in England and Wales (over 2000 sites). The new re-vamped site will be launched early in 2017 and will be a valuable resource and point of information for all climbers to help avoid conflict with conservation and landowning interests. This will also be available as a fee downloadable app for smart phones.

Live winter weather information project

This project to inform winter climbers of weather and ground conditions in Cwm Idwal National Nature Reserve has been running successfully for a few years. It provides winter climbers with live information about air temperature at 650m and 850m as well as information if the ground is frozen. This enables climbers to have real time information to decide if ground conditions are suitable for winter climbing (i.e. properly frozen) on very sensitive conservation sites, that could otherwise be damaged by climbing activities.

BMC are re in early discussion with NRW, Snowdonia National Park and hopefully Visit Wales to develop a similar project aimed at hill-walkers on Snowdon. This would give year round live weather conditions (temp, precipitation, wind strength) from the summit of Snowdon in the hope that it would enable walkers to be better informed before walking on Snowdon, thus reducing the increasing number of unnecessary callouts to Mtn Rescue teams by unprepared walkers.

Impact of hydro-schemes on landscape and access

The proliferation of hydro schemes in upland areas (over 100 planning applications in Snowdonia National Park alone) and the lack of a clear strategy by NRW and planning authorities in how to respond have led to considerable concerns by members about the impact of these developments. Concerns have been raised about both the appropriateness of individual development in highly sensitive and supposedly protected upland areas and the lack of strategy regarding the cumulative effect of multiple schemes on virtually every upland streams in some catchments. In addition, the apparent lack of resources by statutory bodies to adequately monitor the developments and the clear lack of compliance with planning and abstraction conditions by developers, leading to long term visual damage and pollution is very worrying.

Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner

River Access Arrangements

Canoe Wales supported the submission on 1 November of a petition by the 'Waters of Wales' campaign group which "calls on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement a Bill to establish statutory public rights of access to land and water for recreational and other purposes".

Regardless of the outcome of this petition, Canoe Wales is continuing to discuss potential 'management arrangements' that could enable conflict-free shared-use on several rivers in Wales. These discussions are complicated by different interpretations of the legal position regarding access to navigable non-tidal waterways. While angling bodies in general believe that riparian owners have the legal right to control navigation, Canoe Wales believes there is compelling evidence that there is in fact an ancient common law Public Right of Navigation on all such waterways that has not been extinguished (despite the existence of 19th Century case law that suggests otherwise). This difference of opinion – which will only be resolved by a court decision or new legislation – means that discussions around sustainable management arrangements often result in impasse (and is the reason that Canoe Wales refused to engage in them in recent years). Nevertheless, Canoe

Wales is currently committed to progressing such discussions without prejudice to the legal position wherever possible, since we believe that it is in the interests of all users and of local communities to manage how we use our rivers and to sustain them as future resources for recreation.

The Welsh Dee Partnership has been willing to engage with us in this respect and we have remained engaged in discussions led by Powys County Council addressing the stretch of the Wye from Glasbury to Hay-on-Wye. The Usk Fisheries Association has also expressed a desire to work with us, while the Wye & Usk Foundation appears resistant to any attempt to discuss how its own arrangements could be made acceptable to recreational paddlers. We will shortly be consulting our membership, through a series of roadshow events, to gauge the acceptability of different types of management arrangements; which may influence the way in which any future discussions progress.

Post meeting note: NRW has received correspondence since these contributions were issued from the Wye and Usk Foundation who have stated that they strongly disagree with this statement in relation to their work. We understand that Canoe Wales and the Wye and Usk Foundation have met since the meeting to discuss the access arrangement on the Wye and Usk.

Conwy Hydro Electric Scheme

Canoe Wales objected in September to a hydro-electric scheme on the river Conwy being proposed by RWE Power, which would have had a significant detrimental impact on access to the Fairy Glen; a world-renowned 'test-piece' for white-water canoeing. The planning application for this scheme has now been withdrawn in the face of opposition from Snowdonia National Park and environmental pressure groups and we wait to see whether it will be re-submitted in a different form.

Disabled Ramblers: John Cuthbertson

Bridle Gate Report

The Natural England/BHS Bridle Gate Report has been published. The Disabled Ramblers are pleased to have been part of the working party. The key findings for disabled people are:

- Non - self-closing gates are safer in that no one was hit by one and less effort is needed to open one. However, the lone chair or scooter rider then has to turn back to close it which might be difficult or impossible where the width of the gate approach is restricted. It is also time-consuming and draining on energy.
- 2 way opening is far, far preferable to 1 way. Trying to open a gate from a chair or scooter by pulling it towards one is extremely difficult and impossible for many (or most) users.

- Force required to open the gate of no more than 18 Newtons (and preferably less)
- Closing time of at least 8 seconds
- Gate closing to be dampened, so that the gate remains open near its maximum opening point for 1-2 seconds before closing, rather than bounce back on its hinges, even after being flung open.
- A handle angled towards the slam post to give more leverage
- Manoeuvring space clear of obstacles
- Clear width of opening of 1.7metres
- A D shaped latching mechanism
- Improving signage: Improving coloured indicators on parts of the gate that could be used to open the gate. Yellow should be used for ease of reading by sight impaired people.
- Adding push plates at the right height for mobility scooter and wheelchair users to prevent parts of their chair/scooter from catching on the gate as the vehicle is often used to push open the gate.
- Improving latch design for people with reduced manual dexterity.
- In addition mobility scooter and wheelchair users may benefit from some further research into the use of the best positioning of their chair or scooter to reduce how much they may need to stretch to reach handles or latches, plus the development of an aid that can be used to open latches.

Rambles in North Wales

During September we ran three rambles in Snowdonia (Beddgelert Forest, Capel Curig Old A5 Coach Road to Tryfan and Nant Ffrancon from Ogwen) and Newborough Forest on Anglesey. They were very well attended. However, we had to limit numbers due to the limited size of some car parks. **In 2017** we plan to run rambles in the Brecon Beacons.



ITV Wales Coast & Country

In September we were pleased to be filmed on the Old A5 Coach Road near Gwern Gof Isaf Campsite/farm and would like to thank our members for their patience as filming is a protracted business! It is scheduled to be shown on Friday 4th November 2016 at 20:30.



Elan Valley Trust: David Evans

Elan Links: People, Nature & Water Landscape Partnership

The Elan Links: People, Nature & Water Landscape Partnership is a £3.3 million project with a significant £1.8 million secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme. The project is in its development phase and will be followed by a 5-year programme commencing in July 2017. It is a partnership of 17 different organisations who aim to deliver 27 projects under 11 strategic objectives over 6 years. Objective 9, which is to Improve the range of recreational opportunities to enjoy Elan will see £100,000 of money being spent on improving access and recreational opportunities.

This project is about implementing a package of clearly identified priority access improvements that will enhance and add value to the current recreational offering at Elan. This will enable a wider range of walkers, cyclists and horse riders of different

abilities to explore and enjoy Elan safely. The improvements are those that have been identified as a priority within the access and recreation plan for Elan. All of Elan's 72 square mile water catchment is open access, one of the first of its kind in the UK, as it was written into Birmingham Cooperation's Act of parliament for the compulsory purchase of the entire Water catchment for the future benefit of the public for generations to come. Today we interpret that this open access extends to horse riders, walkers and cyclists. However, navigating the entire open access water catchment is no mean feat, the gradient and boggy nature of the hills coupled with the large expanses of water separating areas mean that it is walking, cycling and horse riding for the hard core and experienced.

The project focuses on developing links and modifications to the existing rights of way network and long distance paths at Elan to ensure that there is a range of short, medium and long distance offering, along with different skill abilities such as steep or so that a bigger and wider group of walkers, cyclists & horse riders of different abilities are able to use and enjoy Elan. We will also create additional routes and activities for families, another priority action as the challenges of Elan referred to above means that options for this key group are limited. Routes will be short in length, circular and be close by to parking and toilet facilities where possible. There will be interpretation information available along with interactive activities suitable for children, young people and adults enabling people of all ages to experience what Elan has to offer them and be engaged with the heritage of Elan. There will also be a focus on strengthening the routes that link with our gateway communities so that accessing Elan from the wider community is encouraged and promoted. If anyone would like more information on the project or the partnership, or get involved in anyway please let us know.

Glandŵr Cymru: Andrew Stumpf

Two pieces of major funding to note. In both cases there will be a great deal of community engagement including school visits and other education work. On the Montgomery particular attention will be paid to the Polish community in Welshpool. We anticipate additional community canal adoptions of lengths of canal as a result.

MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL

We believe that securing the navigable section and bringing the unrestored section of the Mon & Brec canal back to life would be an exemplar of sustainable development in practice. To sustain the currently navigable section, and enable the potential benefits in the unrestored section to be released, works are required to secure the embankments and reduce water losses in that section. A successful application to the new Green Infrastructure Capital Grant Scheme under Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs secured £2.538m to begin those works and to make a step change in the way canal habitats are managed. This work is essential to maintain the most popular attraction in the Brecon Beacons National Park. A canoe access will be created at bridge 116.

A public works open day will take place at Llangattock on 28 January 2017

MONTGOMERY CANAL

Heritage Lottery Fund approved a project to “Restore the Montgomery Canals as a resource for people and Wildlife” with an award of £2. 53 million towards total project costs of £4 million. Although the main construction works and associated costs will be in England the project and its Activity Plan covers the whole length of the canal and around £500k will be spent in Wales which will include around 5km of improved towpath north of Welshpool.

LLANGOLLEN CANAL

The physical works of the NRW funded family paddle sport pilot are now complete and a new access has been negotiated from the Eisteddfod site for “approved canoe groups”. An accompanying information leaflet / Z map for the Llangollen is being designed / produced currently.

National Trust: Richard Neale

Coastal Connections / Cysylltu'r Glannau

As part of our Land Outdoors and Nature programme, we are developing a Coastal Connections project. This NT-wide initiative aims to link coastal access and wildlife on the coastal belt. A big part of this will be to do with helping to establish the English Coast Path, but here in Wales we will be planning improvements during 2017, based on....

- Investigate opportunities for improving the line of the WCP on NT coastal properties, and prepare costed proposals.
- Voluntary dedication of Access Land (under CROW Act) on NT coastal properties, to formalise access corridor / spreading room which also benefits wildlife.
- Dedicating permissive sections of WCP on NT land as statutory ROW.

COASTodians / MORLINofalwyr



The number of voluntary Community COASTodians now helping us look after the coast has increased to 27, with more interested in joining this new initiative. The role includes checking paths and access furniture in Gower, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Llŷn and Ynys Môn. We also have up to 60 Junior COASTodians at two schools regularly visiting their local beach to help us look after it (picture).



Pen y Gogarth / Great Orme

Our new tenant at Y Parc, Great Orme, Dan Jones, has now started and joins our Seasonal Ranger (Doug Don) who

started in May. Both will be working closely with the Conwy Council Wardens to create new access routes on the newly acquired NT land, which will be established over the next year or so with volunteers and community groups.

Cemlyn, Ynys Môn



Consultation is continuing on our long-term vision for this important destination for bird-watchers and coast path walkers. More information on this exercise – which has been prompted by the twin challenges of sea-level rise and the proposed construction of Wylfa Newydd on neighbouring land – can be found at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/cemlyns-changing-coastline>

Cwm Ivy, Gŵyr / Gower



Agreement has been reached with Swansea City Council, the local ramblers group and the local community on a solution to the loss of the path over the breached sea-wall at Cwm Ivy. The plan is to widen the breach and create a culvert-causeway which will allow the tide to continue to flood the marsh, and enable the saltmarsh restoration project to continue.

Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â/ For more information, contact:
richard.neale@nationaltrust.org.uk

Open Spaces Society: Kate Ashbrook

Mynydd y Gwair – we were disappointed that the applications from RWE Innogy UK Ltd for 16 wind turbines on Mynydd y Gwair common, under sections 16 and 38 of the Commons Act 2006, were granted after a public inquiry. We are concerned that the Welsh Ministers seem to rely on alleged economic benefits to justify the argument that common-land exchanges are in the public interest (this case is similar to the Circuit of Wales which is to take common land in Blaenau Gwent).

We are reminding communities in Wales to review the protection of their open spaces and put in applications to register land as town or village green, before the Planning Act takes effect next year (when applications will be outlawed on land with planning permission for development). We are also writing to the Environment Minister urging her to make special provision to protect applications which are made before the commencement date, to ensure they are not affected by the new rules.

We were pleased to welcome Quentin Grimley, NRW's Coastal Path Officer, to speak at our AGM in July about the development of the Wales Coast Path.

Our Powys local correspondent, Peter Newman, has persuaded the Welsh Government to correct its guidance note about the removal of obstructions from public paths under section 130A of the Highways Act 1980; the guidance will be sent to all local authorities in Wales.

We continue to support our members in the protection of their commons, greens, open spaces and public paths.

Sustrans: Gwyn Smith

Barriers to Access on the National Cycle Network (NCN)

A common thread of complaints received by Sustrans Cymru is how access barriers makes it very difficult for legitimate users of the routes to access them. Over the past two years Sustrans has worked with both Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff councils to remove barriers on the network with great success making the journey easier and more pleasant for regular users and accessible to those with mobility issues.

We are now gathering data about the existing barriers that can be used to provide information for the integrated network map (INM) which is the current stage of the Active Travel Act. (see below) with recommendations to local authorities of how access, if possible, can be improved.



Active Travel Act

All existing route maps for all local authorities have now been approved and all authorities are working on the next stage of the process. This is called the integrated

network map (INM) and will allow all local authorities to form a 15 year plan on how they are going to develop walking and cycling routes over the next 15 years. Consultations on this next plan will be happening in the very near future and Sustrans along with cycling UK and living streets have been running a campaign to get people involved in the consultation process.

<https://action.cyclinguk.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1689&ea.campaign.id=54239&ea.tracking.id=ES>

Sustrans is currently working with Welsh Government to produce advice and materials that will help LA's produce their INM's

Sustrans Cymru has new Director

Steve Brooks has succeeded Jane Lorimer as National Director for Sustrans Cymru. He joined us on October 31st.

Steve is well known in Wales for his high profile and impactful contributions to public affairs over a twenty year period. He joins us from the Electoral Reform Society (ERS) where he is currently Wales Director. Previous roles include Head of Oxfam Cymru and the Sustainability Development Commission. He is a trustee of the Bevan Foundation. Steve is particularly looking forward to joining Sustrans because of the many affinities between our work and policy areas he is most passionate about – improving sustainable development and tackling poverty.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/steve-brooks-joins-us-wales-director>

Rail Franchises

Sustrans Cymru has been meeting with all the potential companies that are tending for the new rail franchise. We are trying to ensure that a walking and cycling strategy is embedded in business objectives at the very highest level. The strategy must be supported by a dedicated transport manager who can champion integrated transport especially cycling.

Rural Development Program.

Sustrans has now had this funding confirmed and we will be working with a number of LA's to develop plans to fill gaps in the National Cycle Network. A new project manager has been appointed and should be in post sometime in November.

Cymru Travel Challenge

The second Challenge ran from 10th to 31st of October, 2016.

The aim of the challenge is to get as many people as possible travelling sustainably for local journeys reducing the number of journeys made by car as a solo occupant and in doing so increase physical activity. Any journey could be logged, these could include commute to work; taking the kids to school; a trip to the shops. Every journey counted!

To take part the participants logged their journeys by foot, bike, public transport and car share and the more journeys that they logged the higher up the leader board they went.

'So far over 46,000 miles have been recorded in this autumn's Cymru Travel Challenge.

New routes

Several new additions to the NCN have included changes to route 4 between Burry Port and Kidwelly avoiding a route that often floods. This is also part of the All Wales Coastal Path.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/new-traffic-free-route-pembrey>

A gap in route 492 Between Blaenavon and Brynmawr has now been officially opened which completes the route. This has now created possibly the longest continuous traffic free route in Wales as well as the highest!



<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/News/2016/October/28-Sustainable-cycle-route-formally-opened.aspx>

Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation (WATO): Catherine Williams

In February 2016, Natural Resources Wales, Sports Wales and Visit Wales organised a 2-day "Inspiring Through Adventure" conference as part of the Year of Adventure 2016. The four key themes that ran through the event were how to inspire:

- lifelong participation in sport and physical outdoor activities to reap the health and well-being benefits such activities generate for both individuals and society as a whole;

- an environmentally sustainable outdoor sector with the capacity to sustain higher numbers of visitors;
- the holistic training and development of volunteers, leaders, instructors and coaches.
- a cross-sector approach to partnership working.

Supported by NRW, WATO and The Outdoor Partnership are currently undertaking an piece of work to explore how the outdoor sector can address some of the key recommendations from the conference.

Three consultation events have been carried out across Wales to invite the sector to consider how creating an effective outdoor sector network in Wales could address the recommendations. Over 90 individuals and organisations attended the three meetings to consider the following consultation questions:

- How would you best define ‘the outdoor sector’? In doing so, consider what you believe falls within the sector and what sits outside the sector.
- If a Welsh outdoor sector network were to be established, what would you want from it? In considering this, identify the pros & Cons of such a Network.
- How would you see the structure of such a network for Wales? What would it look like?

On 1st November, a final meeting will bring together key stakeholders to agree on the next steps.

A full report will be presented to NRW by the end of February 2017.

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA): Mark Stafford-Tolley

The statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plan for most Local Authorities (LAs) will be expiring in 2017. Statutory guidance has now been provided to assist Local Authorities/NPAs with the review of their ROWIPs.

The revision of the Circular 5/93 Guidance for Local Authorities regarding public rights of way has now been issued by Welsh Government.

The requirement to update public access legislation is long overdue. As such, the WLGA looks forward to being involved in developing the Bill through the legislative process. It will be important to recognise the benefits public access brings to health and well-being as well as the economy of Wales. It is anticipated that an announcement on a White Paper by Welsh Government will be provided in the new year.

An agreement between Network Rail and public access professional bodies has been drawn up to make it clear how public access, when they interact with railways

crossings, should be managed. This is an agreement that is relevant in England as well as in Wales.

Biodiversity duties for public bodies have been updated within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to supcede s.40 Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006. There are also sustainability duties within the same Act that also has direct relationship with the Well-Being (Future Generations) Act 2015.

The increased financial burden the above requirements place on Local Authorities must be taken into consideration especially in light of the financial pressures facing Local Authorities.

NRW Contributions

NRW: Juliet Michael

NRW's Come Outside! programme enabled 260 organisations to involve nearly 3,500 people from deprived communities in over 1,000 outdoor activity sessions. The activities ranged from bushcraft to gardening and from star gazing to geocaching.

The programme's evaluation consultants reported that the programme had delivered important learning for future initiatives seeking to tackle physical inactivity and improve the health, wellbeing and employability of those most in need. Come Outside! reached those with sedentary lifestyles by targeting the support organisations who work with them, in the community, young people and health and social care sectors. The Come Outside! Co-ordinators inspired and motivated the support workers to join up with local outdoor providers and gave them the skills and confidence to use outdoor activities in local greenspaces, as part of their service provision.

On the Come Outside! page of NRW's website you will find the 2 page summary document, [Come Outside! Headline Results and Key Learning](#). The Executive Summary, full Evaluation Report and 12 case studies will be available soon. The 3 year programme was funded by Big Lottery, Welsh Government and NRW and ended on 31 March 2016.

NRW: Tree health team

NRW's Tree health team are raising awareness of the importance of biosecurity in forests.

The 'Keep it Clean' campaign poster is available here:
<http://naturalresources.wales/media/679594/keep-it-clean-english-september.pdf>

Further information and a short film is available on NRW's website at

<http://naturalresources.wales/forestry/tree-health-and-biosecurity/biosecurity/?lang=en>

For more information, or to report a tree health matter, please e-mail the tree health team at treehealth@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk



END.