

Our Guiding Principles: Community involvement in the land managed by NRW

Introduction

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) directly manages 7% of Welsh land, on behalf of Wales's population. This includes 120,000ha of woodland, 42 National Nature Reserves and five Visitor Centres.

The land managed by NRW is a significant public asset and it is our priority to make this asset available, attractive and welcoming to people. We recognise that by working together we can ensure the greatest social, environmental and economic benefits to the people of Wales.

We will deliver the aims of The Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources while maximising our contribution to the seven [Well-being Goals](#). Working together with our staff and partners, we will pursue the following goals:

- More people frequently participating in and benefitting from outdoor recreation.
- Increased public understanding of and care for natural resources – leading to behaviour changes and more sustainable ways of living.
- Improved social equity and community cohesion.
- Increased economic benefits for people and communities – reducing levels of poverty.

We will do this by:

- Being an exemplary public body, maximising opportunities for enterprise, skills development and the promotion of well-being through the land we manage.
- Being an enabling organisation, working with partners and engaging with communities in an open, collaborative and fair way, to support activities, events and projects on NRW-managed land. We'll also welcome proposals from a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals.
- Employing staff with the skills to facilitate and manage this work.
- Where possible, using spatial evidence to ensure we invest resources in areas of greatest need, delivering the most benefit to individuals and communities.

- Adhering to the principles of least restrictive access. This means we'll facilitate the best access possible to the land we manage.
- Following our [Customer Care and Service Standards](#) to ensure our customers receive consistent and timely responses that address their individual needs.
- Producing activity-specific position statements to ensure we have a consistent and transparent approach to managing recreation, access, education, community and regeneration activities on NRW-managed land.

In carrying out this work we will:

- Adhere to [Byelaws](#) and other legal restrictions on the land we manage, such as leasehold land and restrictive covenants. Activities, events or projects that could result in Byelaws being broken will need our formal permission.
- Provide hazard information to applicants so they can prepare risk assessments to manage everyone's safety during their activity (and during set up and take down), keeping in mind the [Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group principles](#).
- Comply with [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#) and National Nature Reserves' management requirements.
- Be mindful of our liability for public safety, managing sites to ensure visitors are safe and signposting land management operations when required.
- Ensure rights of way are managed and maintained in line with our obligations as the land manager. In addition to this, we work with partners to develop and promote other permissive access routes.
- Mitigate against the spread of disease, and other biosecurity threats, through management, education and, where necessary, restrictions on access.
- Consider whether the site can sustain any proposed activity, event or project. Requiring that organisers:
 - assess the social and environmental impact of the proposed activity, event or project and can ensure it will be managed to the right standard.
 - have appropriate insurance cover and are responsible for the health and safety of those taking part (both participants and organisers) or those who could be affected, including spectators, other visitors and third parties.
 - comply with the law and will not damage NRW's reputation.
 - refrain from publicising activities, events or projects until the date and location has been confirmed by NRW.

- Promote the family of Countryside Codes and other best practice guidance produced by national governing bodies and partner organisations.
- Work in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and promote and facilitate use of the Welsh language.
- Publish details of any fees we charge and ensure they are fair, transparent and consistently applied. Charges will take into account the costs to NRW of hosting the activity, event or project, as well as its scale and purpose – for example whether it is for charitable¹, commercial² or social³ purpose.

¹ A charitable purpose is one intended to raise funds for a registered charity or several charities, and for no other profit.

² A commercial purpose is one intended to produce a profit for a company, in money or in kind. This includes activities where some of the revenue is donated to charity.

³ A social purpose is one intended to raise funds of an enterprise or business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose.