



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

# Contributions: NAFW 64

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

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## [The British Horse Society: Mark Weston](#) [mark.weston@bhs.org.uk](mailto:mark.weston@bhs.org.uk)



### General interest

#### **The BHS Paths for Communities Fund**

The BHS Paths for Communities Fund continues to help to provide multi-user routes all around the UK since being launched in 2015. These are routes which may have become inaccessible or difficult to ride.

### Policy and Legislation

Horse riders are sometimes unable to use routes to access NRW land that they have previously used because obstructions have been put up to prevent unauthorised motorised access. Monmouthshire Council have started meeting with NRW on a regular basis to deal with a number of these access issues which have limited recreational use of their woodlands for various types of user, so that these issues can be resolved.

We are hoping to have a signing ceremony at the Royal Welsh Show for the NRW concordat with the British Horse Society.

Surfacing of bridleways with tarmac continues to happen in certain instances to the extreme detriment of horse riders.

### Campaigns and Events

#### **Ride Out UK**

Ride Out UK started in May and runs through until the end of October. Ride Out UK is a BHS campaign to get riders hacking out whilst raising money to improve the equestrian network. Ride Out UK is off to a fantastic start with over 550 people having already taken part, raising £6329 so far for our Paths for Communities Fund.

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**Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner  
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## Campaigns and Events

Canoe Wales has launched a campaign for *Clear Access, Clear Waters Wales*, setting out a vision to confirm access to rivers and inland waters and to protect the water-based environment of Wales – in harmony with and supported by British Canoeing's campaign in England.

**Mynediad Clir  
Dyfroedd Clir**



**Clear Access  
Clear Waters**

We would like to see the waters of Wales open for all sustainable recreational pursuits to all responsible recreational users. This will enable the public to enjoy the health and well-being benefits of recreation in, on or beside water.

Based around three key pledges and focused initially on paddlesport, we will continue to call on the Welsh Government to address the matter of public access on water and protection of our environment:

1. To champion the case for fair, shared, sustainable open access on and along inland waters to be confirmed in law – we will continue to engage with the Welsh Government through the National Access Forum and Wales Water Management Forum; and will seek to persuade AMs to support legislative change;
2. To act to protect and improve the health of our rivers, working to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment – we expect the campaign to emphasise responsible behaviour by paddlers (e.g. protecting spawning beds and preventing the spread of Invasive Non-Native species) – as well as publicising and promoting river clean-ups to demonstrate the contribution that paddlers can make to protecting our environment; and
3. To inspire more people to be active outdoors; connecting people with their environment and promoting the benefits on mental and physical well-being.

NAFW Members are invited to subscribe to our campaign blog / newsletter at <http://clearaccessclearwaters.wales/subscribe>.

## General Interest

### **BBC Radio Wales – “A Right to Paddle”**

Radio Wales broadcast a half-hour piece on 12 June “in search of compromise in the long-running argument between anglers and canoeists over access to Wales' many rivers, lakes and reservoirs” – available until 15 July at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005vf5>.

## Staffing

We are currently recruiting a 0.4FTE ‘Places to Paddle Manager’ in lieu of the 0.2-0.3FTE consultancy support provided since 2016 by our ‘Waterways & Environment Officer’. We intend that the incumbent of this new position will be our representative at future NAFW meetings

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### **Disabled Ramblers: Arthur Lee**

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Web-site: [www.disabledramblers.co.uk](http://www.disabledramblers.co.uk)

## General interest

### **Disabled Ramblers – Snowdonia Rambles**

Any member of National Access Forum for Wales (NAFW) would be made most welcome should you wish to attend any of the following rambles;

#### **1913 Coed-y-Brenin Rivers. LL40 2HZ**

**Monday 8th July**

In this forest ramble we have 2 beautiful viewpoints, first to the west of Rhinog Fach then to the east of Rhobell-y-big, we also descend to a bridge to admire the River Gain. Later we descend to the River Eden which we follow for a while. We will be using a part of the old Roman Road ‘Sarn Helen’ which we came across in the Brecon Beacons tour in 2016. This forest is very varied with a good mix of conifer and deciduous trees and a multitude of different mosses and ferns not forgetting the pine needle ant hills. We mainly travel on reasonably good forestry tracks, some bumpy, many wide enough for socialising. Cyclists welcome. **Dogs** welcome under strict control as these are also cycle routes.

**Central town:** Dolgellau 7 miles

5.5 miles, Cat 3\* Suitable as a first ramble

**1914 Coed-y-Brenin Waterfalls. LL40 2HZ****Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

On our second ramble in this forested area we climb up to a viewpoint eastwards before descending to the Afon (river) Mawddach, on a grassy track. We then turn upstream towards our first waterfall where we cross the Afon Gain by the Pistyll Cain waterfalls before crossing the Afon Mawddach with a view of the Waterfalls Rhaeadr Mawddach - and all before lunch by the Afon Mawddach. Continuing downstream we then cross back over the Afon Mawddach (via a footbridge) and continue along forestry roads before entering a magical fairy kingdom on a footpath through trees mosses and ferns. This forest is very varied with a good mix of conifer and deciduous trees and a multitude of different mosses and ferns not forgetting the pine needle ant hills. Our route is mainly on reasonably good forestry tracks, many wide enough for socialising. 1160 feet of ascent/descent on this very up and down ramble. Cyclists welcome. **Dogs** welcome under strict control as these are also cycle routes.

**Central town:** Dolgellau 7 miles

7 miles, Cat 3\* Suitable as a first ramble

**1915 Mawddach Trail. LL40 1YF****Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

A stunning, predominately linear, ramble alongside the Afons (Rivers) Gwynant (white water) and Mawddach with spectacular views of the Snowdonia mountains and Mawddach estuary. Sightings of Heron, Cormorants, Little Egrets, Oyster Catchers, Canada Geese, Blue tits, Chaffinches and Mallard Ducks. You may even see sheep stranded by a high tide! Mostly Cat 2 on crushed slate track, wide enough for socialising, but with a bumpier Cat 2+ ride through the woods and a very bumpy Cat 3 ride along a bridleway for the lunch loop providing a wonderful view of the combined railway and foot bridge over the mouth of the estuary with the backdrop of Snowdonia's mountains. This trail runs on the south side of the estuary so you are predominately in the shade from plenty of trees and rock formations (could be welcome in July) plus the whole valley acts as a wind tunnel surrounded as it is by Snowdonia's mountains. Cycles welcome. **Dogs** welcome under strict control as these are also cycle routes.

**Central town:** Dolgellau 4 miles

9 miles, Cat 3\* Suitable as a first ramble.

**1916 Llyn Trawsfynydd. LL41 4DT****Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

A linear ramble around the most beautiful side of Llyn Trawsfynydd. Some on a quiet dead end private road and the rest on a crushed stone surface approx. 1.25 metres wide. It is the ups and downs, some steep, then the twists and turns which make this route more challenging and Cat 3. Overall ascent/descent 750 feet - so not flat. Once across the dam the trail goes over open moorland before entering fenced off areas with occasional glimpses of the beautiful views across the Llyn. There is a possibility of extending the ramble in the other direction if conditions permit.

**Dogs** welcome under strict control as these are also cycle routes. Cyclists welcome.**Central town:** Dolgellau 15 miles

5.5 miles, Cat 3\* Suitable as a first ramble

2019 Disabled Ramblers Programme of rambles:

[../Arthur's Onedrive/OneDrive/Arthur's Onedrive/Disabled Ramblers/2019/Rambles Programme Booklet 2019 Issue 1.pdf](http://Arthur's%20Onedrive/OneDrive/Arthur's%20Onedrive/Disabled%20Ramblers/2019/Rambles%20Programme%20Booklet%202019%20Issue%201.pdf)

## Campaigns and Events

### **Alternative PROW Furniture at National Land Access Centre (NLAC).**

Working together with Natural England (NE) at their National Nature Reserve at Aston Rowant in the Chilterns. Part of the Nature Reserve has been constructed the NLAC which was launched in September 2018. This NLAC has been designed by access specialists to offer a secure environment to test gates and other access infrastructure meeting the new British Standard 5709:2018 for Gaps, Gates and Stiles. This seeks to ensure use of 'the least restrictive option,' aimed at opening up the countryside to all, inclusive of walkers, cyclists, horse riders, mobility vehicles, wheelchairs and push chairs. Disabled Ramblers volunteers demonstrate the use of a "Tramper" mobility scooter in negotiating the various structures and then encourage participants to sit on and use the "Tramper" to experience first-hand the practicalities of their use when encountering these structures. Up to date we have demonstrated to Sustrans – Pathns for Everyone; Natural England – Coastal Path Team; Forestry England; and Outdoor Recreation Network - "Open to All? Accessibility in the Outdoors".

Please see below a video and some images from recent training days.





## Staffing

**Disabled Ramblers is a Nationwide Charity.**

There are NO paid officers, it is run entirely by volunteers.

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## IPRoW (Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Managers)

[ruthrourke@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruthrourke@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

### General interest

#### **Street Gazetteer, PINS & Ombudsman decision.**

The National Streets Gazetteer, aiming to combine all authorities' List of Streets online, is live at [www.findmystreet.co.uk/](http://www.findmystreet.co.uk/). Public Rights of Way will by next year also be shown on it.

How to object or make representations to a public rights of way order advice from PINS changed on 22 May 2019. *"Decision times updated to start from date all required documentation received (valid date)."*

An interesting decision from the Ombudsman directing a council to review its process for modification orders (not PPO as in the article's title) [reported in Grough](#) as the backlog and time taken to process an order were unsatisfactory.

### Staffing

#### **Staff & Director Changes**

IPRoW have employed Laura Vayro as Membership Officer and Ailsa Gibson as Business Manager. Lucy Flanagan is the new Editor for Waymark. Three Directors have resigned, including Ruth Rourke the Director for Wales. A replacement is being sought, but in the meantime Ruth will continue to represent IPRoW at relevant national meetings.

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## **Ramblers Cymru: Rebecca Brough**

**Email: [Rebecca.Brough@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Brough@ramblers.org.uk)**



### **Cambrian Way Guidebook Celebrations**

Members of the National Access Forum are welcome to join Ramblers Cymru as we celebrate the launch of the new Ciccerrone Guidebook

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August – Official Launch of the new Guidebook

- 10.30 walk starts from Pettigrew Tea Rooms, Bute Park, CF10 1BJ – Led by Cardiff Ramblers, 5.2 miles to the Glamorgan Canal. A bus will return walkers to Bute Park.
- 14.00 – post walk refreshments
- 14.30 – Official Launch of the new guidebook

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August – Brecon Beacons National Park Walk

- 10.00 walk starts from Craig-y-Nos Country Park, Pen-y-Cae, Swansea, SA9 1GL – Led by Brecon Beacons Park Society, the route will leave the Country Park heading up to the summit of Fan Gyhirych, returning following the Cambrian Way route – 9.2 miles approx.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Doethie Valley and Ty'n Cornel Hostel

- 11.00 walk starts from Soar y Mynydd Chapel, Tregaron, SY25 6NP – grid reference SN785 534 – Led by Lampeter Ramblers, the route will take in the Cambrian Way variant route and main route, and will include a refreshment stop at Ty'n Cornel Hostel – 6.5 miles approx.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August – Cadair Idris

- 10.00 walk starts from Dol Idris car park (fee required) at the junction of A487 & B4405, nearest postcode is LL36 9AJ – Led by Meirionnydd Ramblers the route will take in the gentler ascent up to Gau Graig and from there head to the summit of Cadair Idris.

All of these walks require attendees to have suitable footwear and wet weather clothing, along with all walkers to bring food and water.

For further information or to confirm your attendance to any of these events, please email or call Oliver Wicks on [oliver.wicks@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:oliver.wicks@ramblers.org.uk) or 020 39613316

## **Eisteddfod Director's Walk**

HOLD THE DATE: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Details are being finalised but we are planning to lead a walk from the Eisteddfod Maes on the morning of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Further information to follow.

## **Big Welsh Walk**

HOLD THE DATE: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

We are in early discussions with the National Trust to bring our Big Welsh Walk Challenge event to Chirk Castle next year. Further information to follow.

## **NRW: Wales Coast Path**

Further Information: [quentin.grimley@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:quentin.grimley@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

## **WCP Visitor Survey Commences 1 July 2019**

Our contracted partners, Beaufort Research, will commence the third Wales Coast Path Visitor Survey, of 1500 respondents on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. To cover seasonal variations fieldwork will run for a whole year with a final report due by the end of September 2020. The survey has been expanded from previous editions to include questions on user motivations and experience.

### **Research Objectives**

The purpose of the WCP Visitor Survey 2019/20 is to gather, analyse and report on information from 1500 respondents relating to the following categories.

- a) Individual respondent's profiles
- b) Group profiles
- c) Multi day visit characteristics
- d) Visit characteristics for the day in question
- e) Visitor spend
- f) Motivation
- g) Experience
- h) Information provision

The information will inform our understanding of people using the route, including their opinions and needs. It will also inform future management actions - including path development, marketing and information provision.

## **Wales Trails Monitoring System Due to Go Live in July**

Until now, surveys of the physical condition of the Wales Coast Path and two inland National Trails have been undertaken, recorded and analysed using five independent and differently configured versions of the exegesis product CAMS – Countryside.

Access Management System. To enable us to produce consistent reports, which underpin work planning and funding allocations, we are working with exegesis to create one consistent centrally hosted system – the Wales Trails Monitoring System.

The location and condition of all path furniture (gates, stiles, bridges, boardwalks etc), and signage are recorded together with an assessment of the surface and surroundings and the ease of following.

### **WG Allocate Additional Funding for the WCP**

The Welsh Government have allocated NRW an extra £510,500 to be split between the Wales Coast Path, National Trails and the Access Reform work announced by the Minister in March.

Of this, it has been confirmed that an additional £200,000 will be allocated for WCP capital funding. For planning purposes this has been added to the grant budget and will be allocated to local authorities under normal processes. This is on top of NRW's average WCP budget of £900,000 which covers grants to local authorities, marketing, monitoring and running costs.

There will also be an allocation from this for WCP revenue funding. This will principally be allocated to the national WCP promotion budget, but the amount and exact allocations are subject to further discussion between NRW and WG.

**END.**