

Enjoying the Outdoors!

An update on the
recreation & access
work of the
Countryside
Council for Wales



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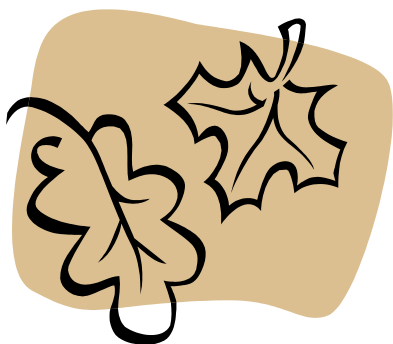
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Enjoying the Outdoors!

An update on work from the Countryside Council for Wales



Autumn 2012

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Cover photograph:

Walking on access land,
Garreg Hir, Powys.

This photograph:

Walking on access land,
Foel Fadian, Powys.

Photos by Michael D. Smith.

CCW's Enjoying the Outdoors Newsletter

This newsletter aims to bring you information about the Countryside Council for Wales' (CCW) work on the theme of access and recreation in the great outdoors as well as:

- green space planning
- health
- education and interpretation

and specific funding projects:

- Coastal Access Improvement Programme
- Communities and Nature (CAN)

Working with other staff with recreation and access expertise in CCW's Regions, the **People and Places Group** remit includes working to encourage people to understand and enjoy the outdoor environment in Wales.



'Natural Resources Wales' - the new organisation

On the 25th October, John Griffiths AM, Welsh Government Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, announced that the name for the new single environment body in Wales will be **Natural Resources Wales / Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**.

From the 1st April 2013 the new single body will bring together the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales.

“Wales’ natural resources – our air, land, water and wildlife – are critical to our quality of life. They provide food, water, energy, timber and materials for construction, which also provide a wide range of opportunities for our economy. Our natural resources are also the foundation for our stunning Welsh landscapes and coast - the backdrop to our recreational activities and to everyday life in Wales.”

For more information click: [Welsh Government Website](#)



Local Access Forums Conference

This conference was held on the 13th June in the International Pavilion in the Royal Welsh Showground. The day was full of interesting presentations on a wide range of topics including the Mosaic Project run by the Campaign for National Parks and advice from the Fieldfare Trust on designing rights of way that are accessible.

Thanks to all those who addressed the conference and to the attendees for their contributions - it was encouraging that representatives from every LAF made the effort to attend. For the meeting notes visit:

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/local-access-forums.aspx?lang=en>

National Access Forum Wales (NAFW)

The 43rd meeting of the NAFW took place on the 10th of July in Ladywell House in Newtown. The forum received timely updates on the Active Travel Bill (Wales) White Paper and future management advice for the Wales Coast Path. An application for membership was granted to the British Driving Society (which represents carriage drivers) following a presentation from Janet Williams.

NAFW 44 will be held on the 13th of November at the Newport Centre, Newport, South Wales. The meeting is open to the public to observe but the public aren't generally invited to speak.

Agendas, minutes and future meeting dates are given on CCW's website at the following address: www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/national-access-forum.aspx?lang=en

Contact: Lucy Swannell, Access Policy Officer, CCW
Tel: (01970) 631166. E-mail: l.swannell@ccw.gov.uk

Local Access Forums (LAFs) Chairs' meeting

A Local Access Chairs meeting was held on 4th October 2012 at Ladywell House, Newtown. The first item on the Agenda was the election of National Representative and Deputy. Only one nomination (for Jean Rosenfeld) had been received for National Representative, and he was therefore duly confirmed for a second term of office. No nominations had been received for the Deputy position, which remains vacant.

Other items on the Agenda included updates on Glastir, the Glastir Woodlands scheme, Llais y Goedwyg, water-based recreation projects (Splash) and on CCW's Outdoor Wales onLine (OWoL) recreational access mapping. There was also a presentation of the Trails Mid Wales ('Leaping Stiles') Project. Finally the meeting reviewed LAF responses to the



Photo by Michael D. Smith.

Welsh Government consultations on the Active Travel Bill White Paper and on the single body and discussed problems that some LAFs are experiencing.

The date and venue of the next meeting (around February 2013) are yet to be arranged. Meeting notes will be available in due course on CCW's website at the address below:
www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/local-access-forums.aspx?lang=en

Contact: Lucy Swannell, Access Policy Officer, CCW,
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Local Access Forums (LAFs) – Guidance

With many LAFs coming to the end of their terms this year it is a good time to remind secretaries about the guidance that exists to help guide appointment of a new LAF. The guidance also provides a good introduction to LAFs for new members and may need to be referred to from time to time by existing members. There are three guidance documents available:

LAF Guidance 1 - Establishment of LAFs

This sets out the procedures for appointing a LAF and as the procedure is the same for reappointment it is a useful document for any new secretaries unfamiliar with the process.

LAF Guidance 2 – Roles, Duties & Functions

This covers the primary purpose of LAFs, the types of work they are likely to be involved in and where they have statutory duties.

LAF Guidance 3 - Annual Reports

This outlines out what should be included in LAF's annual reports which are a requirement under Welsh Government regulations.

All the above documents are available on CCW's website:

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/local-access-forums.aspx>

Active Travel (Wales) Bill – White Paper

This consultation paper contained proposals to enable more people in Wales to actively travel (walk and cycle). In order to achieve this the Welsh Government proposals were focused around getting local authorities to identify and map a network of active travel routes and to make continuous improvements to that network. The consultation closed in mid August and generated 358 responses. The Welsh Government has just published an analysis of the consultation responses on their website and a document which sets out how outcomes from the consultation will affect proposals within the White Paper going forward:

Analysis of consultation responses:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/consultation/121016activetravsummresponsesen.doc>

Outcomes of the Active Travel (Wales) Bill White Paper consultation

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/consultation/121016activetravgovresponseen.doc>

Development of the Wales Coast Path

The 870 mile long Wales Coast Path, plus 60 miles of official alternative routes, officially opened with events in Flint, Aberystwyth and Cardiff on 5th May 2012. The opening was extensively covered by all sections of the national and local media and as a result of the Path's creation, Lonely Planet selected the Welsh coast as the number one region in the world to visit in 2012.



Mwnt, Ceredigion.

Objectives

The physical objective - a continuous walking route around the whole of the Welsh coast, from the outskirts of Chester in the north to Chepstow in the south - has been achieved. It is as near to the coast as legally and physically practicable, whilst fully taking into account the needs of health and safety, land management and conservation. Whilst it is not practical for the whole route to be accessible for equestrians and cyclists, CCW guidance requires that all sections currently available to these user groups should be maintained appropriately and that local authorities should consider making other sections multi-user. Some sections of the route have been specifically upgraded for use by wheelchair users and others with restricted mobility and the whole project has regard to least restrictive access principles.

However, it is important to stress that the Path on the ground is not seen as an end in itself, but as a way of delivering the following key objectives:

- To encourage and enable the public, both locals and visitors, to enjoy the coastline of Wales.
- To encourage and enable more people to enjoy physical recreation at the coast, thus helping in efforts to become a fitter, healthier nation.
- To make coastal access a 'flagship' tourism product, thus bringing economic benefit to coastal communities.

Delivery

Delivery of the project, which ends in March 2013, is being co-ordinated on behalf of the Welsh Government (WG) by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and delivered on the ground by the local authorities through which it passes. WG and the local authorities are contributing around £2 million a year to the project, with nearly £4 million in total coming from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the projects in the West Wales & The Valleys convergence area.

Alignment Challenges

It has always been accepted that it would be impossible to have a route which hugs the coast throughout. For example, the Path diverts inland in the following circumstances:

- river estuaries – to the first bridging point accessible to walkers
- military firing ranges - on health and safety / security grounds
- ports - on health and safety / security grounds
- large industrial areas - on health and safety / security grounds
- conservation sites - to avoid unacceptable disturbance to wildlife
- steep or unstable terrain - on health and safety / practicality grounds
- landowners objections - where we have so far been unable to reach agreement

It should be noted that, whilst there are a few instances of public path creation orders being implemented, this is very much a last resort and the aim is to create as much of the route as possible through agreement, with compensation as appropriate, rather than compulsion.

CCW are continuing to work with local authorities and landowners with the intention of realigning the route closer to the coast wherever possible, whilst having regard to the above constraints.



Photo © Visit Wales 2012

Moelfre, Anglesey.

Marketing & Promotion

The PR campaign has been led by contractors, Quadrant Media and Communications, based in Cardiff. This has been both proactive and reactive in nature and has resulted in extensive coverage in the international, British and Welsh media. In addition the PR departments of both Visit Wales and CCW have actively engaged in promotion and marketing.

The Wales Coast Path website went live in time for the launch and active Facebook and Twitter pages have been established. These are all seen as very important tools in the ‘new media’ age. In addition, one national and eight regional leaflets have been produced and CCW have entered into a partnership agreement with Northern Eye Books to produce a series of paid-for official guidebooks for all sections of the Path which do not already have them. These are scheduled to be published in 2013.

Monitoring

To measure the success of the project and inform future development, it is important to gather baseline data regarding both the Path infrastructure and usage of the route. To this end, exeGIS SDM have conducted a full inventory and condition survey of the route (excluding Pembrokeshire which already has established monitoring in place), people counters have been installed and a face-to-face survey is currently being conducted by Beaufort Research to determine usage patterns and opinions. A study, led by the Tourism Company, is assessing how the creation of the Path is benefiting the coastal economy.

The Future

The current funding programme ends on 31st March 2013. However, there is no time to rest as infrastructure upgrades and, in places, realignment closer to the coast are required to improve the route and the user experience. This is not to mention the routine maintenance that all paths

require. Also the marketing and information initiatives already in place will require frequent updating and development. In particular, the website and social media require regular attention to keep them lively, useful and interesting.

Having received advice from CCW, the Welsh Government is expected to make an announcement on the way forward in the autumn of 2012.

Contact: Quentin Grimley, Coastal Access Project Officer, CCW.

E-mail: q.grimley@ccw.gov.uk

Coastal Path Update - North Wales

Bridging the gaps

Both Anglesey and Gwynedd Council have been working hard on two of the biggest projects of the Wales Coast Path. These two projects have been born out of the hard work and perseverance of the staff involved, it has taken vision and determination to pull these projects together and I think they will prove to be two of the most important projects that the Wales Coast path has seen so far.

Alaw Estuary crossing

The first of these projects to be finished will be the bridging of the Aber Alaw Estuary, a long standing gap in Anglesey's coast path. Currently the route detours back up to the road at

Llanfachraeth for about 1.5km and then back to the coast much further along at Llanenghedl, missing out the south side of the estuary altogether. The new bridge will mean that the road section will not be necessary at all and with the added 2km of new access, will mean that people can appreciate the beauty of the estuary from both sides of the Alaw River.

Sensitive designs have been used to ensure that the bridge is both navigable, to enable access



Photo by Chris Turnbull.



Photo by Chris Turnbull.

to boats up and down the estuary and also to ensure that it is in keeping with its surroundings. Anglesey council have been working closely with CCW sites staff to ensure that the work was well timed, so as not be too disruptive for wildlife and also to ensure that the route was not going to have any long term detrimental affects on the birds of estuary.

Work is now ongoing to finish the last section of the route on the south side of estuary to link the bridge with the Stanley Embankment and then onto Holy Island.

This whole section is hopefully going to be completed and walkable by the New Year, if not sooner.

Dysynni Crossing

The biggest project of the whole of the Wales Coast Path to date will be in Gwynedd, the crossing of the Dysynni; this bridge is due to go in a week before Christmas and has involved an incredible amount of work. The Dysynni bridge crossing will mean that the road into Brynchrug, which is the current route for the Wales coast path, can be avoided.

The bridge is currently being fabricated off site and due to the span of the bridge being so large, at over 50 metres, it has meant the use of an 800 tonne crane, the biggest in the country to lift it into place. Once in place, the bridge will link up with a track on both sides and with a bridleway, so will be available to wide range of users. So, watch this space

Contact: Molly Lovatt, Access & Recreation Officer, CCW North Region.

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The World's Greatest Wall Walks

Following on from Lonely Planet selecting the Welsh coast as the number one region in the world to visit in 2012, Offa's Dyke Path National Trail has just been named by Lonely Planet as one the world's top ten 'wall walks'.

Originally built to divide, these mighty barriers now enable excellent access on foot. The following is an excerpt from [*Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2013*](#).

“Offa's Dyke, England–Wales

You've heard of Hadrian. But who on earth was Offa? King of Mercia, that's who; he ruled most of England in AD 757, but Wales was another matter. Unable to best these feisty dragons, he built a wall to keep them out. Well, not a wall – more a ditch, backed by a mound of mud (more interesting than it sounds...). Offa's Dyke Path National Trail now traces this ancient impediment's remains, wending for 285km from Sedbury Cliffs to Prestatyn, via the Black Mountains, book-town Hay-on-Wye and the heather-clad Clwydian Range, traversing a land that still feels like a wild frontier.”

The Offa's Dyke Path National Trail typically takes around 12 days to complete. The Trail weaves across the England/Wales border

and follows the ancient landmark for much of its way. The Trail connects with the Coast Path at each end, thereby providing the opportunity for walkers to circumnavigate Wales.

LLWYBRAU CENEDLAETHOL
NATIONAL TRAILS



Deadline approaches for views on Open Access Maps

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is reminding landowners and user groups that the deadline for submitting representations on the new draft maps of open access land is 23rd November 2012.

Maps can be viewed online at www.ccw.gov.uk/openaccessmapping or at any CCW office or National Park office.

CCW is required by law to review the maps of open access to mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land every ten years. The review started in July this year, when CCW issued the new draft maps for public consultation.

Once the closing day for representations has passed – 23rd November - CCW will study the requested changes and re-map as necessary and appropriate. In many cases CCW staff will also visit the land in question to review the requested changes to the draft maps.”

Because of the quality of the original mapping work, CCW doesn't envisage dramatic changes – but some changes are anticipated, for example if there have been changes in land use or if boundaries need modifying.

The review timetable from now on....

23rd November 2012 - Closing date for representations on the All Wales draft maps of open access which will form the basis for reviewing the maps.

7th August 2013 - CCW will issue All Wales provisional maps.

7th November 2013 - Deadline for appeals applications to the Planning Inspectorate.

9th May 2014 - Appeals process ends.

24th September 2014 - CCW will issue the All Wales conclusive map.

Please send general enquiries on the review to: openaccessmapping@ccw.gov.uk or call 0845 1306229.

Contact: Richard Owen, Access Review Project Manager, CCW.

E-mail: rc.owen@ccw.gov.uk

Hatterall Ridge, Brecon Beacons National Park.

May 2005 saw the advent of new rights of public access on foot to mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, down land and registered common land in Wales.

In total, approximately 20% of Wales is mapped as access land and this is shown on Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Maps and on CCW's website.



Rights of Way Improvement Plans – News

Launch of Powys Accessible Guides

In the beautiful setting of the Elan Valley Visitor Centre, near Rhayader, Powys, the launch of the Powys Accessible Guides took place on 4th October 2012. The guides are funded by the Countryside Council for Wales using Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding.

The books are part of the Accessible Powys Project, and have been produced by a partnership of Powys County Council's Countryside Services Team and the Disabled Holiday Information charity.

The first guide book – A guide to Countryside Trails and Sites – highlights and details the accessible countryside trails and sites across the county that are suitable for people requiring easier access such as wheelchair users, parents with small children and people with limited walking ability.

All the information gathered from the research teams was then collated, designed and printed by the charity, which has worked closely with Nina Davies, the RoWIP Officer for the county council throughout the project. The project has been funded by the Welsh Government, the Countryside Council for Wales and Powys County Council.



Photos courtesy of Powys County Council.



The second guide – A Guide to Accessible Accommodation – gives an insight into the wide variety of accessible accommodation on offer within Powys and aims to address the complex issues that can face visitors when making decisions about finding somewhere to stay that will meet their individual access needs.

Both of these guides can be accessed on the Powys County Council website:

http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/Accessible_Powys_Accommodation_Guide.pdf

http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/Accessible_Powys_Trails_Guide.pdf

Contact: Susan Jackson, ROWIP Funding Officer, CCW.

E-mail: s.jackson@ccw.gov.uk

Better link for Schools to Brynna Woods

Rhondda Cynon Taff along with volunteers from the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have successfully completed works on improving paths in the Brynna Woods area, including the newly refurbished approach to the footbridge over the Ewenny Fach River, Brynna. This reserve has many fantastic wildlife features, including part of the site which is ancient woodland with some spectacular veteran trees and which was once the home of marsh fritillary butterflies, which they hope to see again in the future.

The work has been carried out using Countryside Council for Wales, RoWIP and Welsh Government funding to improve a pathway and footbridge that link local schools Ysgol Gynradd, Brynna and Dolau School, and Llanharan to the Brynna Woods area managed by the Wildlife Trust. This footbridge provides an important link to greenspaces, particularly for the schools. Part of the work was to clear the pathway which involved the volunteers pulling up Himalayan Balsam to make it more accessible. They have also been busy with the removal of fallen trees following some bouts of windy weather. Following the clearance of the west end of the pond a pair of mallard ducks has now taken up residence.

The newly cleared pathway and upgraded bridge provide a more accessible route through Brynna Woods to and from the neighbouring schools.

Before work started



After work completed



Photos supplied by Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC



Volunteers cutting back Himalayan Balsam.

Photo supplied by District Diary

Further information can be obtained about Rights of Way from the Rhondda Cynon Taff website at www.rctcbc.gov.uk or by contacting parkscountryside@rctcbc.gov.uk

For information about volunteering with the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales contact Tim Jones, Reserve Officer.

E-mail: t.jones@welshwildlife.org

Contact: Susan Jackson
ROWIP Funding Officer, CCW.

E-mail: s.jackson@ccw.gov.uk

Dyfi Osprey Project – ospreys and more!

The Dyfi Osprey Project at Cors Dyfi near Machynlleth has had a rollercoaster season including the joy of returning ospreys, losing two out of three chicks to the extreme weather this summer, appearing on BBC Springwatch, installing HD nest cameras, and welcoming hundreds of visitors to explore



Photo by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

the reserve. While the site is closed for the winter you can still keep up with Dyfi Osprey Project events and what this year's chick, Ceulan, is up to in West Africa via Facebook, Twitter and the web: <http://dyfiospreyproject.com/>

In mid-September the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust received the long awaited news from Heritage Lottery Fund that they had been successful in securing a grant that, together with CAN, will support the creation of an innovative 360 degree Wildlife Observatory at Cors Dyfi. The observatory will give visitors the chance to see more of the wildlife at the reserve up close, provide views across the beautiful Dyfi, and will offer wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility a space above the reedbeds for wildlife watching.



Photo by Ben Stammers.

Sandwich Tern at Cemlyn.

North Wales Wildlife Trust – Natur i bawb; birds and people at Cemlyn

If the weather keeps you at home why not have a look at the North Wales Wildlife Trust's new short film!

Following one of the most successful seasons ever at Cemlyn Nature Reserve's seabird colony on Anglesey, Greengage Films produced 'Cemlyn', which gives a

real flavour of the wildlife at the reserve. It also explores the conservation work done by NWWT and the bio blitz event that took place over the summer.

You can view this evocative film on the NWWT website:

<http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/> or at: <http://vimeo.com/48264093>.

Cemlyn is one of the NWWT's many reserves across North Wales that, as part of the Natur i Bawb initiative, have received support from CAN to improve access.

Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw – Exploring lost woodlands

Volunteers and staff at Plas Glyn y Weddw on the Llŷn saw their hard work to reopen the lost woodland of Y Winllan come to fruition. The official opening of Y Winllan was celebrated at the end of August with a weekend of music and events. The restored paths through Y Winllan offer a peaceful retreat and wonderful views along the coast. This initiative has also created an outdoor amphitheatre for concerts and events. So, together with the gallery and exhibitions, there is a lot to explore in a very special place.

Information about Y Winllan and events can be found at <http://www.oriel.org.uk/>.

Snowdonia Society – be inspired and refreshed at Tŷ Hyll

Tŷ Hyll, the famous tŷ unnos just outside Betws-y-Coed, has reopened after renovation to the building and grounds. The Snowdonia Society has teamed up with the National Beekeeping

Centre for Wales and a local caterer to develop the site as a visitor centre and tearoom, focusing on the protection and promotion of the Welsh honey bee.

You can now explore the woodland and garden that are managed by volunteers to benefit wildlife (particularly bees), learn about the pollinators on which we all rely, and indulge a little in the new tea room.



Photo by Cymdeithas Eryri Snowdonia Society

For more information visit: <http://www.theuglyhouse.co.uk/>.

The Dyfi Osprey Project, the MWT 360 Wildlife Observatory, Natur i Bawb, Y Winllan, and the Tŷ Hyll Honeybee Initiative are supported through Communities and Nature (CAN), which is a strategic project led and managed by Countryside Council for Wales and is part funded by ERDF through the Welsh Government.



Contact: Charlotte Barnett, CAN Assistant Project Officer, CCW.
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Wild Ways to Explore Cardiff

Cardiff Council have been working hard on a new project (supported by CCW grant aid) designed to encourage children, and their families, to get outside and have fun by becoming Wildlife Explorers.



By following the new Wildlife Explorer Trails everyone can find out all about the fascinating biodiversity in the capital city's parks. The Wildlife Explorer trails series of nature walks have been developed in parks across Cardiff. The trails consist of posts which have been installed throughout the parks with metal plaques of plants and wildlife that can be seen in that area. These trails are designed for all to use and they have proved very popular with younger children in particular. The first trail was installed in Bute Park, which has a number of centres where visitors can pick up pre-printed booklets and a pack of crayons for free. Children then have to spot the plaques as they follow the trail, they then make rubbings of the plaques as they find them and complete their Wildlife Explorers Trail booklet.



There are currently trails in four sites with three more planned by the end of the year. The project has great flexibility as the posts can be moved around if needed and the booklets easily amended. The trail site being designed at Howardian LNR will be adding QR Codes on plastic plaques to the trail posts. When scanned, these codes will take users to the relevant page on the Friends of Howardian website for more information. On sites with no information centres, negotiations with nearby businesses such as Starbucks or schools have secured distribution of pre-printed leaflets from their premises.

Staff from Cardiff Council are thrilled with the success and popularity of the trails. Ecologist Laura Palmer said "It's such a simple idea but it's proving a really good way for children and adults to find out about the wildlife around them, people just love it. We hope it'll help people understand the importance of caring for their local wildlife and environment."

Contact: Colette Mooney
S&E Region Senior Recreation & Partnerships Officer, CCW.
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Photos by Laura Palmer.

Explore North Wales with Outdoor Wales onLine

If, like many, you fancy finding somewhere to take the kids so that they (and you!) can let off steam, where better to cast them loose than in the fresh air and scenic beauty of North Wales? The interactive Outdoor Wales onLine (OWoL) map might just be the perfect tool. The digital map, which you can access on the Countryside Council of Wales (CCW) website, highlights a

wide range of places to visit, including short and long distance walks or cycle paths – and it's super easy to use!



Photo ©Visit Wales 2012

Mother and sons cycling along seafront Rhos-on-Sea.

Consider Llandudno for example. The countryside surrounding the town abounds with places to visit, where you can experience nature at its best – first hand. Places such as Marl Hall Woods (near Llandudno Junction) offer an immediate woodland escape from the hustle and bustle. Take the kids (and the dog!) and get lost amongst the tree canopy and birdsong.

It's also a good spot to look out over the Conwy estuary and watch the wading birds digging around in the mud. Nearby is the Conwy RSPB reserve – an immensely popular area where children and adults can learn all about the wildlife that surrounds them, and try their hand at spotting the varied bird species that call the estuary home.

Where's the best place to start my walk?

Both the Wales Coast Path and North Wales Path hug the coastline of North Wales, and Llandudno and Conwy are great places to start your walk. Both routes meet up on the Conwy Mountain as it looms over the historic town, providing stunning vistas towards Anglesey and Puffin Island.

Alternatively you can visit Betws-y-Coed, a favourite haunt of walkers, set in the beautiful mountainous countryside of Snowdonia.

Try stretching your legs on the Bro Garmon Walk which starts in Betws-y-Coed, and takes a circular route out to the tiny hilltop village of Capel Garmon and back. Along the way you can embrace some of Wales' Celtic legacy – and visit the Capel Garmon burial chamber, which dates back to the 3rd Millennium BC. If you have mobility problems you might prefer to walk the flat promenade from Llandudno to Little Orme's Head, or Penrhyn Bay to Colwyn Bay.



Photo ©Visit Wales 2012

Wheelchair user and guide on boarded walkway through reed beds at Conwy RSPB Reserve.



Walking on the North Wales Path.

Anywhere nearby to take my mountain bike?

Absolutely! Head off inland towards Llyn Brenig reservoir, which can be found in the Denbigh Moors (a part of the breathtaking Clwydian Range AONB). The lake is surrounded by a comparatively easy route and you and your family can experience the thrills and spills of mountain biking, or just park your car and take a stroll around the tranquil Llyn.



Mountain biking near Llyn Brenig.

Want to find out more?

All these places and more can be found on our updated OWoL map. Wherever you visit, chances are you'll find something to do or see.

This update is taken from CCW's blog: the Welsh View. Watch out for our next blog on the Welsh View – we'll be using the OWoL map to explore another region of Wales.

Jill Meyer
Recreation & Access Information Officer, CCW.
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Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, near Llangollen.



Come Outside!

In August the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) awarded CCW a grant of £607,265 over three years as part-funding for the Come Outside! Programme. CCW, Forestry Commission Wales and Welsh Government have committed a further £550,000.

Come Outside! is an innovative approach which increases participation levels in outdoor activities delivering health and social benefits for people most in need. Developed from sound evidence, this £1.1 million, three-year Programme will address the challenge of changing behaviour across 12 Communities First Clusters in North, South West and South East Wales.

The Programme will develop the social, personal and transferable skills of over 800 young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) supporting them to re-enter education, access training and/or pursue employment opportunities. The Programme will also support over 1,600 people who are obese, sedentary and/or experiencing limiting, long-term illness, to develop more physically active lifestyles.

CCW is currently recruiting the Come Outside! Project Team and the Programme is expected to start in November. A launch event is planned which will bring together the 18 national organisations and Welsh Government departments who have supported the development of this Programme and who will form the new Come Outside! National Partnership.

For further information please contact:

Juliet Michael
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Promoted Routes in Wales

CCW held the 'Wales Trails / Camau Gorau – Exploring Opportunities for Promoted Routes' event at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells on the 3rd October.

With a wide range of stakeholders in attendance the event sought to explore the potential to better promote Wales' trails and develop a co-operative approach to building Wales' reputation for high quality recreational routes. The day also looked at how organisations can work together to deliver this aim and increase the benefits such routes can bring to local communities, and Wales as a whole.

Following the success of the day, CCW (and in turn Natural Resources Wales) were tasked develop, in partnership with stakeholders, proposals to shape this exciting area of work into the future.

For a copy of the report of the day contact:

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Photo by Michael D. Smith.

Contributions and Contacts

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Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the newsletter.

This newsletter is usually compiled three times a year in advance of the meetings of the National Access Forum for Wales. (N.B. No summer 2012 edition was produced.)

Next edition: March 2013.

If you have any suggestions for the next newsletter please contact:

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The Countryside Council for Wales' website can be viewed at: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

Outdoor Wales onLine: use our interactive OWoL map to find everything from short or long hikes to boating and bird watching and picnic areas... plus links to useful information such as weather forecasts, travel or where to find accommodation.

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/enjoying-the-country/outdoor-wales-online.aspx>

CCW newsletters page: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/about-ccw/newsroom/newsletters>

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

CCW champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

