



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
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General interest

Heading: Accident statistics

Detail: The latest statistics from the Society's Horse Accidents website are:

845 incidents reported, 87 horses killed, 117 horses injured, 4 people killed, 115 people injured.

The significant rise is because we have partnered the New Forest and Dartmoor National Parks to include the semi feral ponies killed so we are getting a much clearer and realistic picture of how many horses/ponies are killed on our roads. The Society's Dead Slow campaign is about influencing driver behaviour when they see ANY horse on the road, not just a ridden horse.

It is therefore important that equestrians are included in new path proposals to enable horses to get off the road instead of having to share with vehicular traffic.

The Society has received reports that measures to exclude illegal use by off-road vehicles often results in the putting up of barriers which then prevents horse riders from using some routes that they can legitimately use, thereby forcing them back onto the road.

Ride Safe Award

The Society's new Ride Safe Award covers safe and responsible riding on the road, off the road, and in the arena.

For further information on Ride Safe: <https://pathways.bhs.org.uk/ride-safe-award/>

Campaigns and Events

Heading: Ride Out UK

Detail: Ride Out UK is the BHS' annual campaign to raise awareness of the great work we do to protect and extend safe places to ride and carriage drive throughout the UK. It is the time to raise awareness of access & rights of way across Wales, engage with local communities, and encourage people to saddle up and explore off road. Through our many fun events and challenges, the public can take part to raise money for the BHS Paths for Communities Fund and learn about how to go about protecting and increasing places to ride off road in their area. We also use it as a great opportunity to reward and encourage good practise by presenting awards to access champions.

We've organised a series of fun events including rides across beautiful private estates and iconic National Trust properties including the beautiful Dolaucothi Gold Mine ride in Carmarthenshire on 2 June 2019. Find out what is on in the welsh counties and how the public can get involved at www.bhs.org.uk/rideoutuk

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[Open Spaces Society: Kate Ashbrook](#) hq@oss.org.uk

Policy and Legislation

Meeting with Hannah Blythyn, Deputy Environment Minister

Useful discussion about rights-of-way and open spaces, and our hope that Welsh Government will repeal the 2026 cut off for definitive maps, given that we are less than seven years away and little action has been taken.

Clarification of our objects

Our trustees recently confirmed that our objects include campaigning for access by legitimate means to, on and alongside water.

Staffing

New member of staff

We are creating a new post of Case Officer (Rights of Way) to assist with members' queries, liaise with other organisations, review and develop our rights-of-way policies and work with our local correspondents. Although based in Henley-on-Thames, the post holder will be active in Wales as well as England. Details will be on our website from early April, <https://www.oss.org.uk/how-you-can-help/recruitment/>

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British Mountaineering Council : Elfyn Jones

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General interest - Governance

Governance issues: Following what was a very tumultuous year for the BMC in 2018, we now have a new governance regime with a newly appointed Board of Directors managing the business side of the BMC and a National Council that represents the views of the members. Following considerable debates and discussions at the AGM and other meetings, members agreed that the Board of Directors will now have primacy in policy and operational matters, taking into account the views and representations of the Members National Council. The new Chairman of the BMC Board is Gareth Pierce from Pendine, previously CEO of the Welsh Joint Education Board., and the first person from Wales to hold this post. With membership now standing at over 85,000 (5000 in Wales), BMC membership continues to grow.

Liability/insurance

A recent major concern was a very large liability claim against one of our members, whose climbing companion suffered catastrophic injuries following a fall at an indoor climbing wall. The climbing companion (who was a member of the BMC) was deemed to be negligently responsible and the insurance claim (all BMC members are covered for liability insurance) is more than £6million and is likely to be settled by our insurers. This has resulted in a huge loss of income and additional ongoing annual premium costs to the BMC in excess of £200,000 per year. This will be covered in the short term by raising membership subscriptions by an unprecedented 17% (£6 per member).

Organisational Development Review

The organisation is also undertaking a major Organisational Development review, looking at both implementing the new governance regime and modernising the organisation's operations. This is partially in response to changing demographics, the anticipated huge interest in indoor climbing following the inclusion of climbing as a major sport in the Olympics in Japan (and now also confirmed as an event in the 2024 Paris Olympics).

As part of this review the BMC is looking closely at its structure and identity in Wales and the anticipation is that the BMC will seek to increase its profile within Wales, with additional staff based in Wales or at the very least appointing more staff with a Wales specific remit. We are also working with the Welsh Language Board for the BMC to develop a Welsh Language Scheme.

Campaigns and Events

Hills To Oceans (H2O)

This is a major UK wide campaign aimed at reducing plastic litter from the hills and crags of the UK. We are encouraging members (and all climbers and hill-walkers) to reduce the amount of plastic they use and to organise clear ups from crags and mountains. As part of this initiative the BMC is committed to eliminating all single use plastic from its operations by the end of 2019. All our events and festivals will feature clean-up activities where participants will be given litter pickers and bags to collect litter. This is being done in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy, Keep Wales Tidy and also with the organisation Surfers against Sewage.

Climbing Festivals

We have a number of climbing festivals arranged in Wales in 2019:

In early May we are hosting an **International Traditional Rock Climbing Meet** in Snowdonia. Wales is a centre of so-called “traditional” rock-climbing, where fixed climbing equipment is not placed in the rock and climbers have to place their own protection, as opposed to “Sports Climbing” where fixed anchors or bolts are placed in the rock (and is like the climbing found on indoor climbing walls). Over 50 climbers from over 20 international mountaineering federations are coming to Wales for this international meet, from countries as diverse as Japan, South Africa, Pakistan, Croatia and Russia as well as other European countries.

We have other more local climbing festivals in Wales in 2019, one at Gower on the weekend of August 30th/Sept 1st and one at Pembrokeshire on the late May Bank Holiday Weekend May 25th/26th. Although open to anyone, these events are not aimed at complete beginners but more at climbers seeking to enjoy traditional climbing on the sea cliffs and will involve some skills training by qualified instructors, talks by well-known climbers and local climbers giving advice to first time climbing visitors to these areas.

Conservation Issues

As always at this time of year we are actively informing climbers of which cliffs to avoid climbing on due to nesting birds. Working with RSPB, NRW, National Park Authorities and Wildlife Trusts this can be a rapidly and an almost daily changing picture as birds nest on previously unrestricted cliffs or fail to nest on established sites! We rely on local access volunteers to work with local conservation groups and we then update the information on our free Regional Access Database, which lists all known rock climbing sites in England and Wales.

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/>

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Ramblers Cymru: Rebecca Brough

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General interest

Big Welsh Walk

We are in early stage discussions about bringing the Big Welsh Walk Challenge event to the Clywdian Range AONB next year.

Provisional date 9th May 2020

Cambrian Way

The Cambrian Way trail marking is continuing, and the new Cicerone guidebook is due to be launched in Cardiff in July. A series of celebratory walks are being planned along the route for early August.

Paths for People Project

We are actively seeking opportunities to work with community councils across Wales to help them improve and promote their path networks. We can offer volunteer training and equipment and would welcome any suggestions from Forum members of communities which may be interested.

Funding & Resources

Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing Fund/ Health and Active Fund

Unfortunately, Ramblers Cymru was unsuccessful in both its recent funding bids: for our all-Wales Paths for People project through the ENRaW fund; and the continuation of Health Walk support through Health and Active Fund. We are currently exploring other options and opportunities for these areas of our work, although Paths for People has some existing resource until Oct 2019 through People's Postcode Lottery.

Campaigns and Events

Signposting Campaign

We are developing a public facing campaign to improve the signage of Rights of Way, particularly from the roadside. This is a response to member's concerns that

statutory duties to signpost are not being fulfilled. The campaign will most likely take the format of:

1. encouraging people to reporting missing/damaged signage; and
2. fundraising to replace them, using a public 'donate a sign' approach.

We hope to launch the campaign this summer.

Wales Coast Path Festival

The programme of walks for the Wales Coast Path Festival is now available:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/wales-coast-path-walking-festival-2019-18812644097>

The free Festival runs over 3 weeks from 4th – 19th May and bookings are already being received from across the country.

Training

We are currently offering our members training on: Rights of Way (Advanced) –10th April in Llandrindod Wells/ 23rd May, Llandudno.

A new 'Walk Leader Induction Training' course and a 'First Aid' course are being delivered over the coming year as well.

If Access Forum members are interested, spaces which may become available on these courses for a nominal fee.

Staffing

Communication and Engagement Manager (Wales)

We have a new Communications and Engagement Manager, Brân Devey.

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Sport Wales: Steve Morgan

Email: steven.morgan@sport.wales

Policy and Legislation

Vision for Sport in Wales

Following the completion and launch of the Vision in July 2018, Sport Wales has been working on its Strategic Plan and how as an organisation it will work with a wide range of partners to ensure that the vision is delivered.

The document is in its final stages and has considered the feedback from the *National Conversation* that took place around the development of the *Vision for Sport* and will be launched in early May 2019.

Community Sport & Activities Programme(CASAP)

Colleagues will be aware of the establishment of the Community Sport and Activity Programme (CSAP). The programme seeks to drive collaboration and innovation across community sport whilst building on existing good practise in our approach as we strive to fulfil the Sector's vision of **an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport**

Over recent months CSAP has made significant progress in North Wales. Sport Wales (SW) is pleased to be working in partnership with the Sport North Wales Partnership as it moves through a period of transition toward the formal establishment of the North Wales Sport Regional Agency. The North Wales Sport Collaborative Partnership (NWSCP) is a partnership which brings together a range of organisations from different sectors, including local authorities, health, universities, Disability Sport Wales and housing associations.

With progress ongoing in North Wales, we are now keen to host a series of Stakeholder Engagement events designed to enable partners to share their views on how CSAP can be delivered across the rest of Wales and how best they might be able to contribute to the programme through collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and partners.

18 th June	9:45 to 13:30	The Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran
19 th June	9:45 to 13:30	National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne
24 th June	10:45 to 14:15	The Village Hotel, Coryton, Cardiff (J32 M4)

The events are invite only and if you would like to attend can you please your contact details, and the organisation you will be representing to sue.maughan@sport.wales

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IPROW: Ruth Rourke

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General interest

Staffing changes are imminent within IPRow, including a review of communications and the tendering of a new contract to produce Waymark.

Policy and Legislation

CROW Act 2020 Cut Off Date

The House of Lords Order paper for 2 April has a question for debate (and interestingly an hour scheduled for it) from Lord Greaves about the progress made towards registration of historic rights of way in England and the benefits of the 2026 cut-off being extended.

<http://lordsbusiness.parliament.uk/?sectionId=38&businessPaperDate=2019-04-02>

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Natural Resources Wales: Mary Galliers; Rachel Parry

New leaflet - National Nature Reserves and Woodlands in mid Wales

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This leaflet features the best National Nature Reserves and woodlands for a day out in mid Wales that are managed by NRW. The leaflet is aimed at the general visitor and includes details of walking trails, cycling trails and accessible facilities at each site, along with information about the Countryside Codes, National Trails, the Wales Coast Path and Traveline Cymru. It is in the same format as our existing suite of regional leaflets, but the content has been fully revised, and the design style has been refreshed. It was published in March and is being distributed to tourist information centres and NRW visitor centres. A downloadable copy has been published on the 'Days Out' section of NRW's website.

Developing an approach for inclusive access information

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Introduction

A pilot project is underway looking at how we can increase people's confidence to access recreational opportunities regardless of ability. Working with [Experience Community](#) on selected sites across Wales over the next year and a half, we will produce detailed visual information enabling visitors to make an informed choice about a route before setting out. **Experience Community** is an organisation which aims to help disabled people get into the countryside using equipment such as Mountain Trikes and Off-road Handcycles. So far, their work has been based on sites and routes in England with organisations such as the National Parks and the National Trust and they are now extending their offer to Wales. We are glad to be working collaboratively with such an organisation.

Background

Equipment such as 'trampers' and adaptive bikes and trikes means that the definition of what is accessible is being widened to include more challenging and adventurous routes, enabling visitors of all abilities to access the outdoors and experience the diversity of landscapes that Wales has to offer. With technological advances meaning that people with disabilities are increasingly more able to access a range of recreational opportunities, we want to empower all visitors to make decisions about the suitability of routes and trails for themselves. Information which relies on telling people with one word or grade the suitability of a route – is becoming less useful for visitors. We want to move towards a more visual/aural style of information provision that enables all visitors to make an informed decision about whether a route is suitable for them.

Context

The project is part of NRW's wider work to improve access to the outdoors. In 2016 NRW commissioned a review of our provision for the diversity of our visitors (known as 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010) at our key visitor sites.

Our recently updated guidance on least restrictive access **By All Reasonable Means** identifies various stages of visiting the outdoors. The first stage, the decision to visit can be the first and final barrier for visitors with a disability. It is this stage which is crucial for allowing visitors to have the confidence to visit somewhere new.

A new approach to information provision

This pilot project seeks to trial a suite of visual decision-making tools for routes/trails on NRW managed land. These tools comprise of:

- video footage of a disabled user on a trail with aural descriptions of gradient, obstacles, surface, infrastructure etc;
- photo trails – providing a series of stills of the surface, gradient, trail type, available infrastructure etc

In turn, this will help us assess which type of information is most useful for visitors with a view to rolling out this approach over the coming years.

We have deliberately focused on a variety of trails at a few sites for this pilot, recognising that we need to move beyond our current understanding of an 'accessible trail'.

Legal context

As an organisation that owns and manages outdoor spaces in Wales, NRW has legislative duties not to discriminate against people with protected characteristics. The three key pieces of legislation relating to these duties are:

- **The Equality Act 2010**
- **The Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000**
- **Part M and BS 8300 of the Building Regulations 2000.**

Additional duties

We have additional duties under the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** and the **Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** to embed the sustainable management of natural resources (**SMNR**) principles throughout the way we work to maximise contribution to the wellbeing goals, as set out in the Act. Work to reduce inequalities of access to the countryside must be mindful of adherence to these principles and of the contribution access and recreational opportunities make to the well-being goals.

This project contributes to a key Corporate Plan objective: Helping people live healthier and more fulfilled lives. By encouraging and promoting inclusive opportunities to enjoy the outdoors we are enabling people to derive the benefits of doing so, in particular sections of society who have more health and wellbeing issues associated with disability/mobility impairment.

Next Steps

Experience Community have started filming/photographing routes at selected NRW sites which provide a range of landscape types, terrain and activities and are in the process of editing and providing bilingual content. The longer-term aim is to roll out this approach across suitable NRW and partner managed sites.

Experience Community are applying for funding to enable them to develop their work with partners in National Parks and local authorities elsewhere in Wales to give disabled users the confidence to try new, more challenging routes in a variety of locations.

More information

For more information about our developing work on more inclusive access to the outdoors visit our website:

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/recreation-and-access-policy-advice-and-guidance/managing-access/improving-access-for-all/?lang=en>

To find out about barrier free routes and sites on NRW land visit:

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/things-to-do/all-ability-activities/?lang=en>

For more information on the work that Experience Community have done in England visit

<http://www.experiencecommunity.co.uk>

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Pembrokeshire Coast NPA: Anthony Richards

Email: anthonyr@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk

General interest

Winter storms implication for public rights of way maintenance

Saturated ground conditions due to winter storm events have resulted in several landslides affecting the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail. This has necessitated a number of path realignments, the most notable being St Nons and Pwllcrochan on the north west coast and at West Angle Bay in the south. The cooperation of the various landowners concerned has ensured that the continuity of the route has been maintained with minimal disruption to walkers. Elsewhere two substantial footbridges needed to be replaced due to flood damage and a number of routes suffered from gully erosion following flooding. The need to respond to such incidents has implications for programmed work, however, this seasonal pattern of extreme weather events appears to be occurring with such regularity that we will now plan for such work as a contingency.

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Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner OBE

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Campaigns and Events

Canoe Wales will soon be launching a *Clear Access, Clear Waters* campaign in Wales to complement the campaign that British Canoeing is running in England.

This campaign is summed-up in the short video at <https://youtu.be/DQkSdmfW4bo> and will call on the Welsh Assembly to press the Welsh Government to make good its 2017 proposals for access reform sooner rather than later. It will also emphasise the power of paddlers to protect and improve the health of our rivers and seas, working with groups like *Surfers Against Sewage* on their 6th-14th April *Big Spring Beach Clean: Summit to Sea* – “a truly epic community response to plastic pollution on our beaches, rivers, streets and mountains”.

General Interest

River Wye Glasbury-Hay

There have been no new developments with the ‘paddle permit’ introduced by one of the fishery owners on this popular stretch of river. We are still waiting to see whether he intends to proceed with the court action he has threatened against one local hire company (and what action we may need to take to support them).

Canoe Wales submitted a response to Powys County Council’s recent consultation on commercial canoe launching on the River Wye at Glasbury, which was triggered by a separate legal threat they received from a second fishery owner. We told them:

“While we understand that your aim is to reduce the impact of canoeing activity on fishing during peak periods [because of a legal covenant on your launch site requiring you not to interfere with fishing downstream], we urge you to take the least restrictive approach that you possibly can to this situation. We believe there is a Public Right of Navigation on this stretch of river, although we acknowledge that this has not been confirmed by legislation or in the courts and is disputed by other parties. However, we believe it is the Council’s duty not to do anything that could prejudice this right nor to inadvertently imply that no such right exists by virtue of your actions at Glasbury” and that “we would be very concerned to see any scheme put in place to manage commercial canoe launching ‘spilling-over’ to affect recreational paddlers, voluntary groups, canoe clubs and responsible family groups.”

We will continue to work closely with local paddlers and businesses, the Council and other interested parties to get the best outcomes we can for responsible, shared use of this critical section of river.

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Update Report on Wales Coast Path Promotion: Regional Tourist Engagement Fund (RTEF) funded work 2018-2019

<p>Title: Update Report on Wales Coast Path Promotion – regional Tourist Engagement Fund (RTEF) funded work 2018-2020</p> <p>Author: sionedh@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk eve.nicholson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</p> <p>Reporting Period: Dec– March 2019</p>	<p>Purpose: To provide a brief and concise update on work done to date for RTEF funded works during the funding period</p> <p>Report Frequency: as and when required.</p>
<p>Reporting Period: Dec– March 2019</p>	<p>Circulation: National Access Forum Wales</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.

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 Regular meetings undertaken Clear campaign plans developed 	<p>Output: Campaign schedules confirmed for:</p> <p>Campaign no 1: Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Campaign no 2: Wales Coast Path Walking Festival in partnership with Ramblers Cymru with their newly appointed Engagement & Communications Manager</p> <p>Campaign no 3: Rough Guides videographer to produce a series of films celebrate the WCP.</p>	<p>Campaign 1: Health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog published our website for Top 5 Reasons to start walking in 2019 Article in The Great Outdoors about the discovering the hidden gems of the Wales Coast Path Ad buying across social media platforms, with an increase in both Facebook and Instagram followers, reach and engagement <p>Campaign 2: Wales Coast Path</p>

		<p>Walking Festival in partnership with Ramblers Cymru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E postcard drafted to “save the date” for the walking festival for target audiences. • Social media campaign integrating Ramblers Cymru and WCP social media accounts now established with the organised walks now open for bookings via Eventbrite website, which is also promoted on Wales Coast Path Facebook and WCP website. • Press release being drafted to promote the festival <p>Campaign 3 Rough Guides press trip - video content resulting from the trip was premiered on Wales Coast Path Facebook channel on 20 March 2019 – (as at 29th March: 716 shares, 123 comments and 303 likes). It will also be shared across other social media channels as well as promoting the walking festival.</p> <p>Read the full PR Agency work update</p>
<p>Photography and Drone footage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed Mother Goose Films in June 2018 	<p>Output</p> <p>All the images have been uploaded to Visit Wales temporary image store whilst they migrate current library to a new asset management system (timescale tbc)</p>	<p>Content will be used across all the promotional tactics e.g. e-postcard, YouTube channel</p>
<p>Walking itineraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan has been developed to capture 	<p>Output</p> <p>Series of long itineraries and short walk ideas for use in</p>	<p>Itineraries will be placed on WCP channels and our key partners and will be</p>

themed itineraries	promotional activity are in production.	available for the B2B digital toolkit.
Business to Business (B2B) <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 	Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary websites (one English and one Welsh) have been set up to collect coastal businesses details who are interested in the toolkit Promotional film featuring Welsh Government Hannah Blythyn on WCP YouTube channel. Finalised Marketing Toolkit and creative assets now available to use from the WCP website Facebook Community Page set up (live launch date tbc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 launch events across Wales during March 2019 were well attended Database of coastal businesses developed - set to receive regular newsletters, toolkit and updates about the WCP. Series of themed newsletters and promotional campaign developed Facebook Community Page: It is envisaged that there will be more engagement and more user generated content between path visitors themselves and with visitors with the coastal businesses
National Walking event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Ramblers Cymru (in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy) in August 	Output A detailed and walking programme has now been confirmed	See PR update above.
Design and branding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed View Creative for design work for promotional materials late Sept 2018 	Output Refreshed branding guidelines done for typography and colour palette, signed off by Welsh Government / Visit Wales. To be used for future promotional activity including possible merchandising opportunities.	Refreshed guidelines will inform the marketing activities.
Digital Experience and interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Peel Interactive to develop the app in late September 2018 	Output Bilingual copy for the app and the 7 interpretation boards now confirmed. Design of the interpretation boards close to sign off with planning permission granted to place them up in the key 7 locations, Show and Tell of the app by Peel Interactive on 8 th April to WCP and Visit Wales	Have agreed with Visit Wales a revised launch time from Spring to June 2019, in time for the main tourist season. Discussions now in place to ensure the appropriate representation from the community / Welsh Government / local councils are invited to each of the app launches Sign off the app imminent.
Support activity for themed years	Output	-

See B2B and Digital Experience update

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 completed across the WCP All relevant key WCP partners have been involved in the filming First episode aired on 29 March 2019. 	<p>Social media cross promotional activities leading up to and during the airing of the series –WCP team, BBC and relevant local authorities, Visit Wales</p>
<p>Wales Coast Path Walking Festival See update above Natural Resources Wales will be encouraging all staff to join in the celebrations</p>	<p>Social media campaign to promote the festival through partners own channels during April and leading up to the festival starting on 4th May – WCP team, NRW Comms staff, relevant local authorities, Visit Wales, Ramblers Cymru.</p>
<p>Wales Coast Path App See update above</p>	<p>Social media campaign from May to June - WCP Team with relevant stakeholders’ engagement too.</p>
<p>New Wales.com website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Wales is launching their brand-new website which will have a more informative and magazine feel. Wales.com new website continued.... The WCP offer will feature heavily 	<p>Ensuring WCP content links with Visit Wales via websites and social media – WCP Team</p>
<p>Promoting links with coastal businesses See update above</p>	<p>Tourist destination websites to encourage their businesses to use the marketing toolkit and to link to the WCP website to share it on social media – by relevant tourism partners.</p>

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Cycling UK: Roger Geffen (Policy Director)
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General interest

Off-road National Trails

Cycling UK is promoting the concept of long-distance multi-user off-road National Trails linking Britain's National Parks, in fulfilment of the original concept of National Trails as envisaged in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are intended to act as high-profile routes to prove the concept of multi-user trails, providing a backbone for the development of local route networks. See coverage in the Times (www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cyclists-get-1-000-mile-right-to-ride-chdw7rqrz) and Metro (<https://metro.co.uk/2018/09/23/cycle-from-lands-end-to-john-ogroats-without-seeing-any-cars-charity-says-7972775/>). We have written to the Minister outlining how this network could work in Wales, as part of the follow-on from the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources consultation.

Policy and Legislation

Agriculture Bill

We have been working alongside the Ramblers, British Horse Society and Open Spaces Society, seeking to ensure that this legislation, currently before the Westminster Parliament, delivers improvements to off-road public access as part of Environment Secretary Michael Gove's commitment to secure "public goods for public subsidies". Specifically we are arguing that any resulting funding should be targeted towards:

- Gaps in the network – including bridges or tunnels, or locations where the 'higher rights' network has discontinuities and missing links, areas where few 'higher rights' routes are available or where links are needed on road safety grounds;
- The urban fringe – where there is the greatest need to integrate urban / utility-focussed walking and cycling networks with the rights of way network, so that people can use RoWs in all weathers at all times of year e.g. for trips to school or to work;
- Promoted routes – e.g. disused rail lines or national trails
- Maintaining all of the above.

Active Travel Act – including:

- a) Joint input (with Sustrans Cymru and Living Streets) to the Assembly's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills (EIS) Committee's inquiry on the future role of Transport for Wales;

- b) Input to the Welsh Government's review of the Active Travel Act's 'Delivery Guidance';
- c) Participation in the Active Travel Board.

In all the above contexts, we have argued that there needs to be greater integration between:

- the Integrated Network Maps (INMs, which are predominantly in or around urban areas and focused primarily on 'utility' walking and cycling trips, e.g. to school or to work); and
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIPs, which are more rural and more recreational in focus – though this is not a hard and fast distinction).

Deputy Transport Minister Lee Waters was much impressed by this argument when it was put to him at the Active Travel Board.

Visit Wales: Kerry Thatcher

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General interest

The latest newsletter from Visit Wales can be found at the following link:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES/bulletins/2325062>

Tourism Strategy Revision

In 2020 the tourism strategy for Wales will be coming to an end and we are beginning to think about its successor.

Before we develop future priorities for tourism and the wider visitor economy in Wales, we have launched a wider conversation about tourism in Wales.

This includes 10 big questions that we will need to think about to develop 'Priorities for the Visitor Economy' over the summer.

If you haven't already done so, can you please respond via the below survey link and also communicate the information to your networks.

You will also find a link to background information and information regarding our recent Tourism Summit.

Summit Content:

Zone page

EN: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/tourism-summit-28-march-2019>

CY: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/cy/uwchgynhadledd-twristiaeth-28-mawrth-2019>

10 Questions – Lets Shape the Future

EN / CY:

[https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/sites/tourism/files/documents/TourismSummit2019 - 10 Questions Lets Shape the Future.pdf](https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/sites/tourism/files/documents/TourismSummit2019_-_10_Questions_Lets_Shape_the_Future.pdf)

Brochure

EN / CY:

[https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/sites/tourism/files/documents/TourismSummit2019 - Brochure Programme.pdf](https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/sites/tourism/files/documents/TourismSummit2019_-_Brochure_Programme.pdf)

Survey

EN: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/qq65wtt>

CY: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/lmj752b>

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Anti-social behaviour on private land

At the last meeting of the National Access Forum in December, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) indicated that a group had been established to consider anti-social behaviour on NRW owned land. This issue of anti-social behaviour on private land was highlighted and some examples have been provided by NFU Cymru members. Issues include:

- Illegal off-roading including off-road motor-biking
- Livestock worrying
- Dog mess with consequences for livestock - Neospora
- Mixing of livestock both within and between farms
- Inconsiderate car parking on private lanes and private access routes which prevents farmers going about their daily business and also prevents access to emergency services
- Trespass on private land including cutting chains and padlocks to gain access
- Damage to fences including cutting wire to gain access, removing fence posts and pushing fences flat to gain access
- Damage to hay and silage fields
- Illegal overnight camping on private land (and NRW land)
- Lighting fires
- Use of crossbows to kills livestock and acting in an intimidating manner towards farmers; killing and cooking lambs
- Leaving gates open, including between private land and forestry land
- Noise disturbance
- Use of drones is an increasing issue
- Sledging during snowy weather leading to disturbance of livestock and damage to fencing where people have used the fences as a crash barrier

Owners urged to control their dogs as cost of livestock attacks more than doubles in Wales

NFU Cymru has continued to raise awareness and campaign through social media about increasing levels of dog worrying which result in horrific and often fatal injuries to livestock. Even if the dog doesn't make contact, the distress of the chase can cause sheep to die or miscarry their lambs.

- Losses of sheep and other farms animals by dog attacks amounted to £285,000 in Wales last year
- One in six dog owners admit their dog has escaped from home – sparking concerns that unsupervised pets are attacking livestock
- The peak time for attacks is January-April during the lambing period

Key advice for dog owners:

- Always keep dogs on the lead when walking them in rural areas where livestock are kept
- Be aware that even small dogs can attack and kill farm animals
- Report attacks by dogs and sightings of dogs roaming the countryside to local farmers or the police
- Familiarise puppies with farm livestock from a young age and reduce the risk of them attacking sheep or cattle as adult dogs
- Don't let dogs loose in gardens adjoining livestock fields – many attacks are caused by dogs which escape and attack sheep grazing nearby

Further information can be located on [the love your countryside website here](#)



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