

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru - Natural Resources Wales:

**Developing our Recreation and Access
in the context of Natural Resource Planning**



Emyr Roberts, Chief Executive



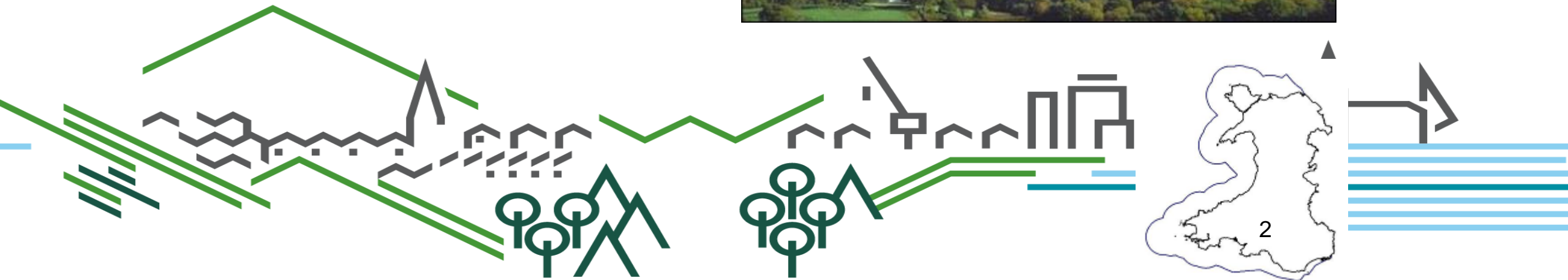
Who we are

New body - 1st April 2013

Welsh Government sponsored
body

Sustainable Development is our
central organising principle

- 2,000 staff
- £179 million budget
- Our remit



Our purpose

To ensure natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, used and enhanced, now and in the future

Our long-term goals / shared outcomes:

Enhancing our environment

Protecting people

Supporting enterprise and jobs

Improving the nation's health

Vibrant and viable places

Delivering social justice

Supporting skills and knowledge



What we do

- Adviser to Government
- Statutory consultee
- Designating authority
- Environmental regulator
- Permitting and licensing authority
- Land manager and owner
- Operator
- Outdoor recreation
- Incident management
- Evidence



The benefits of outdoor recreation:

- improved physical and mental health
- better quality of life
- economic benefits for communities
- green skills and jobs
- increased community cohesion and social capital
- more sustainable travel
- increased tourism visits
- engagement with and understanding of nature



Our Remit for Recreation and Access

Our legal and statutory duties and functions are wide ranging and include, but are not limited to:

- Carrying out our duty of care to those visiting the land we manage
- Our duties and functions under the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013
- Our delivery of CRow as a relevant authority and as a land manager
- Our delivery as a service provider under the Equality Act 2010
- Our delivery under the Welsh Language Act and our own Welsh Language Scheme



Realising the benefits:

Our Corporate Plan 2014 – 2018 commits us to:

- **R&A activities that bring the greatest benefits – particularly in our poorest communities**
- **Working more closely in partnership with communities**
- **Integrating our managed recreation opportunities with other providers**
- **Working so that greenspaces are valuable assets for our towns and cities**
- **Supporting economic benefits, especially in disadvantaged areas**
- **The right provision in the right place, well promoted**



Realising the benefits:

Our Strategic Outcomes

- Access opportunities are provided and improved to meet people's needs for enjoying the outdoors
- More people from all sectors of society participate in outdoor recreation more often
- People have an increased understanding and sense of responsibility towards the natural environment through enjoyment of the outdoors
- Recreational access opportunities are planned, managed and used responsible to ensure sustainable use of natural resources
- Effective mechanisms are in place for working on our own managed land and in our work with our partners and stakeholders to deliver our recreational access objectives.



KEY STRANDS OF NRW'S RECREATION AND ACCESS WORK

- Providing fit for purpose infrastructure
- Providing good quality information
- Encouraging responsible use of the natural environment
- Providing diverse opportunities for participation
- Integrating with other work areas across our remit
- Effective governance and strong working relationships



Infrastructure

- Supporting Local Authorities to manage 3 National Trails and Rights of Way networks
- Managing 955km of waymarked permissive paths in our woods and forests
- 790km of world class mountain bike trails
- Provision of access on open access land
- Urban greenspaces – The Natural Greenspace Toolkit and Green Flag
- Communities and Nature – 30 initiatives



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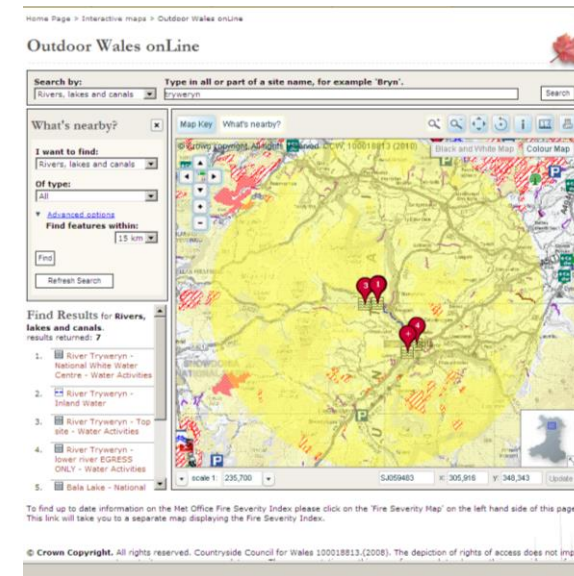


High quality information

- CRoW Open access land
- Routes and sites provided by partners through the Outdoor Wales onLine maps
- Partnership approach to National Trails website
- Forest Xplorer App
- Wales Coast App
- Making routes available in other formats and through other outlets e.g. Wales Coast Path official guides



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Responsible and Sustainable use of the Outdoors

- Advice for users – e.g. Countryside Code, Activity Codes of Conduct, trail safety videos
- Advice for those with responsibilities in outdoor recreation; e.g. managing access on open access land under CRow
- Developing understanding the potential impacts of outdoor recreation and how to mitigate – e.g. habitat vulnerability mapping
- Spatial tools to help people plan and manage recreation more effectively



Provide diverse opportunities for participation

Learning from good practice and developing new approaches

e.g. Come Outside
Woodlands and You



Strengthening integration

- across our remit
- in the way we test, plan and deliver new programmes
- In the way we work with existing partners and develop new collaborations



Natural Resource Management - What are we doing?

Advising:

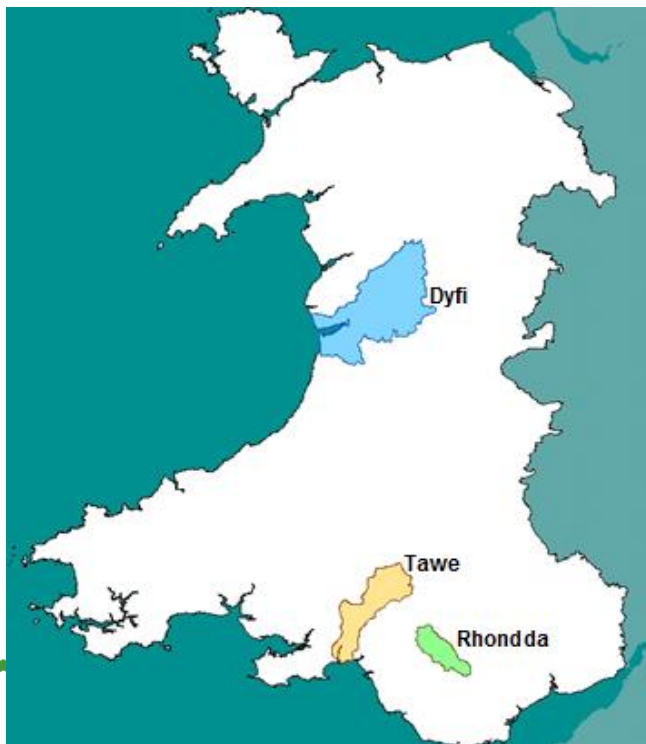
- Development of WG policies using our knowledge and experience of what can work in practice
- Ensuring that the developing approach is evidence based

Responding:

- Developing an integrated approach to management for our key internal plans and processes
- Ensuring that we tackle issues following an integrated approach, e.g.: Inland Fisheries Agenda for Change. Sustainable Forest Management
- Integrated Natural Resource Management trial areas



Area based trials



- Proposed Natural Resource Management duties
- Dyfi, Rhondda & Tawe
- Environmental, social & economic challenges
- Catchment scale
- Marine



Area based trials

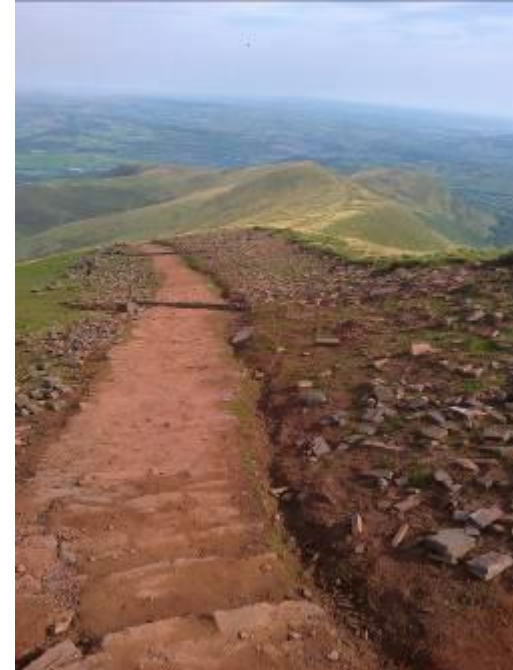
- Key objectives:
 - Test
 - Learn
 - Understand
- Partnership working key to delivery
- Feedback



Collaboration – key to delivery



NT Pen y Fan path repairs – £17k
worth of volunteer involvement



Collaboration for delivery



NT gardens programme :
enhancing biodiversity,
visitor experience and
public awareness, reducing
management costs



Tan-yr-ardd, Lley
LPS: restoration of
vernacular cottage in
an AONB, upskilling
local people, best
practice in combining
contemporary
standards of
restoration/build with
landscape objectives,
stimulating local
enterprise



Challenges:

- Health inequalities remain within and between communities in Wales
- Addressing the diverse range of activities, places and participants in order to deliver the most benefits to the most people.
- The carbon footprint related to outdoor recreation needs to be better understood and encouraging behaviour change and understanding barriers to sustainable travel are important considerations
- Prioritising our priorities.
- We share the financial pressures affecting the public sector across Wales and the UK
- Promoting the role of recreation and access in the context of natural resource management in Wales



Diolch yn fawr
Thank you

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