

**Minutes of the Northern Snowdonia Local Access Forum Meeting  
held on Monday 6th October 2025 at 5.45p.m  
at Tyn y Coed, Capel Curig**

**Present - Members:** Mr Edwin Noble Mr Dafydd Gwyndaf  
Mr John Gladston Mr Mark Jones  
Mr Robin Parry Mr Callum Muskett  
Mr Paul Williams Cllr Beca Roberts  
Mr Richard Williams Mr Arthur Davies  
Mr Dafydd P Jones

**Officers / Speakers:** Peter Rutherford (ENPA) Jason Diamond (NWP)  
Rhian P Williams (ENPA)

EN welcomed all members and Officers/speakers to the meeting this evening.

**1 Apologies** Mrs Fiona Davies Mrs Maggi Barry  
Mr Tim Jones

**2. Previous Minutes**

**Approved**

**3. Matters arising**

**i) Membership review**

PR explained that on reflection and given that the membership tenure was ending after the next meeting in February it was better to leave the membership levels as they are until the next round of applications where that balance could be reset. 18 was the nominal number required. Current tenure would fall away after the last meeting in February and stressed that all current members could reapply.

*MJ recommended one person from the outdoor sector who would be interested.*

PR thanked MJ and stated that he would follow up on that recommendation.

*EN added that it would be a good idea to seek people with an interest in the sector and encourage them to apply and current members.*

**ii) Sill Tourist Information Centre Northumberland**

PR (and a personal perspective) stated that he had some slides showing the 'Sill' - Northumberland National Park Visitors Centre near Hadrian's Wall. Potentially a replica would be ideal for somewhere like Llanberis. A completely 21<sup>st</sup> century sustainable building with all the facilities. Potentially jointly run by GC and the NP and others. This has become an iconic venue and a place to visit in its own right and not merely as a tourist information hub.

*RP asked why this was not a part of the redevelopment of the area.*

PR had floated this unofficially several times but all to no avail. He thought this would be a real leap into the future for the area. However, he stated that this was a personal opinion but he thought it worthy of consideration sometime in the future.

### iii) Bwlch y Moch signage

PR announced that the signage was a ready to install. This sign was the most extreme they had in their signage suite and had not been used before. Some LAF members had visited the site once again to look at the newly built overlapping wall. Those members had put forward some ideas for the proposed lower wall which were interesting. The new wall was to try to reduce the number of people 'following on' and ending up on Crib Goch by mistake and getting into difficulties which was a frequent occurrence.

*PW mentioned that by today most younger generation would not read a sign but a QR code which may be useful to accompany the text and logo.*

*RP suggested having the two together.*

*BR supported that notion of having both*

PR stated that this was good idea and they would look into that.

*DPJ asked if the sign was going to be placed somewhere where people could make the decision in time to turn around before they had committed themselves.*

PR stated that there would be 2. One at the first wall and the second further up.

JD recommended that the QR code should be at the bottom of the track in Pen Y Pass to enable people to get the relevant information and give them time to think and prepare before they arrived at that Bwlch Y Moch.

PR stated that this was also a good idea and they would discuss this. They also acknowledged that the issue was not just about Crib Goch as Crib Y Ddysgl was equally challenging and was also a Grade 1 scramble and that too would require some information including the ENP website.

He added that a new path had developed in recent years to the left of Bwlch Crib Goch as you begin to ascend the first section of Crib Y Ddysgl. The Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team (LLMRT) had highlighted this as potentially hazardous route where the number of incidents had increased in recent years as people found themselves in difficulty.

On inspection they (the NP) had found that this new path was leading people across and away from the correct route. The NP had suggested placing boulders on the path to block this and encourage people to use the correct path to the right (going east to west). This work was ongoing but they would have to be flown in.

#### iv) Harvey Maps

PR mentioned that a LAF member had mentioned Harvey Maps<sup>1</sup> at the last meeting. To explain he circulated a copy of one of the Eryri area Harvey maps. Their look was a dissimilar to OS but were popular. These were usually to 1:40.000 scale whilst OS offered either 1:25000 - Explorer series or 1:50000 Landranger series maps.

They had recently submitted drafts to the ENP of their new print run and Officers had found some anomalies particularly with some Welsh place names and they had asked Harvey Maps to consider our observations.

Harvey maps can also create bespoke maps and they supply many maps for events such as orienteering or fell running. They also have a map set for the Cambrian Way in Wales and produce many maps for Scotland.

#### 4. Correspondence

None

#### 5 North Wales Police – National Park Liaison Officer’s role – Jason Diamond

JD introduced himself as the North Wales Police National Park Liaison Officer. He had been a Police Officer for almost 30 years and had lived and worked in the area and was a Traffic Officer working out of Llandegai base.

He explained that following a meeting with the NP and the Chief Constable last year they asked if we could work more closely together and try to understand the needs of the NP and what input and advice the NWP could bring. In turn this also allowed the NWP to begin to understand the workings and issues of the ENP and this was a very much a reciprocal arrangement. He has been in this post since last June 24.

There were many issues of joint interest such as parking (Ogwen), Nant Gwynant and was helping to pull in other partners such as North & Mid Wales Trunk Roads Agency (NMWTRA) when required to try to reduce the problems caused by traffic – mostly inappropriate roadside and verge parking. They has also helped to ease some of the issues in Llyn Tegid by involving and creating a greater understanding between the local Police Officers in Bala and the NP in the area Wardens.

They were also looking at ‘gateways’ (something previously looked at some 6 years ago).

It was also useful as a vector to bring in other sections of the NWP such as Rural Crimes typically deal with issues such as illegal off roading – albeit this was a countrywide problem. They do have operation Taurus to specifically tackle this issue but it can be difficult given the location and terrain where these activities tend to occur.

They had arranged for a visit to the NP by the Rural Crimes Team and they had given a presentation to NP Officers in Penrhyneddraeth. Having contacts with the Warden Service in particular and other key members of staff was very useful as they were on the ground constantly.

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<sup>1</sup> [HARVEY Maps - for walking, hiking, cycling and fell running](#)

If members had any issues that they wished to bring to the NWP then they should feel free to do so.

*DPJ commented that whilst we did encourage people into the area there were some who did take advantage of this on occasion and did not behave as they should.*

JD stated that yes there was crime but it was important to report stolen goods including stock. It was unfortunate that the border was not far away which made tracing things slightly more difficult. But there was ANPR resources available which assisted with any theft of vehicles and equipment.

*PW asked how the NWP worked with crime on or over their boundaries. I.e. what was their protocol.*

JD stated that if they phone 999 and stated that they had had stolen equipment from them then that crime/offence was recorded as a North Wales crime. If people were stopped in for example Dyfed Powys then they would usually be brought back to North Wales to be dealt with as the case originated here. Any 999 calls within North Wales are directed to the control room in St Asaph – if intelligence indicates that things have gone over the border then that would be passed on to their counterparts over the border. and this works vis a versa.

If any identified vehicles are hit by ANPR over the border or another area then they are notified to avoid continuously searching for vehicles who in reality are not still in the area and this avoids wasting time and resources.

PR mentioned that the presentation by the Rural Crimes Team had been very informative and an eye opener as to what can be done to solve crime.

JD stated that they have various means at their disposal to help solve crimes.

He added that he had also been involved with Operation Apex was a national motorcycling safety campaign. It was unfortunate that there had been more fatalities within Eryri again this year.

They would be undertaking more public relations initiatives with various groups in relation to all road users, including young farmers clubs.

*DPJ mentioned the 'triangle' and that there were still considerable numbers of motorcycle speeders across that area including the Mignaint.*

JD commented that he had been in that location many times over the years but if they constantly 'Police' an area then this can cause displacement and it appears elsewhere. This was the same for dealing with a specific parking issue in one area it then moves to another. But it all boils down to safety.

He had also done several video reels for the NP about safety.

*PW asked that if JD retired what was the chances of a Welsh speaking replacement in terms of Police staffing.*

JD stated that they had levels of Welsh learning and everything within the service was bilingual. They had Welsh Champions and were encouraged to speak to Welsh learners. He was confident that suitable replacements were coming through with those language skills.

*AD mentioned the issue of dog worrying stock. He asked what the perspective of the NWP was regarding this issue. There was an incident reported to the Police in the Penmachno area but when reported the NWP had replied that it was a civil offence. The next day Rural crimes called back to say that it was in fact a criminal offence. He was worried that this only added to the confusion when a landowner may have lost stock and was already stressed and that perpetrators had disappeared.*

JD stated that this was a criminal offence but was a matter for the Rural Crimes team and incidents of this sort should be reported as soon as possible.

*JG asked if the Police could now get all mobile phone data if required. And did the NP use any open source data.*

JD stated that this was not the case. However, there were different levels of crime severity and authority level had come down to Superintendent but using mobile phone information was only allowed where there was typically a life threatening situation. But it did depend on the severity of any particular situation.

PR added that the NP did not as far as he was aware use any other open source data. Other than monitoring data collected by themselves which is simply raw figures.

*ED thanked JD for his time and very interesting presentation this evening.*

## **6. Organised Events Guidelines – revised document – Peter Rutherford**

PR mentioned that this document (circulated) had been subject to a review recently to bring it up to date. They had made several subtle changes to the text and also added in advice and wording given the LLMRT. This was aimed at those organisers who need to be able to deal with certain non major non ambulant casualties by their own means and not rely on the MRT to be called out to all injuries. That was unsustainable given the current levels of callouts they were attending on Yr Wyddfa. They had also updated their advice on those events passing through Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Natural Nature Reserves (NNR).

They had also updated their photos to encompass as many types of events and to be as inclusive as possible.

The copy circulated this evening was the last draft and a Welsh version was in hand. It had also been decided to have all of this on the website as text as well as being available in PDF form. A separate advice note was also available specifically for the Llanberis path for smaller events and groups and overnighters.

*MJ asked what qualified in terms of numbers to be classified as an event.*

PR replied that they considered that anything in the hundreds would qualify as an event *per se* but he always encourage all events organisers – even if only 10 - 20 to read the information which was sent to all those who inquired. PR added that he was frequently more concerned about very small unassisted groups who may not have the expertise or knowledge as those larger organised events.

*MJ commented that would it not be an idea for those events to pay for the team to be available for such an event.*

*CM added that he thought that guidance was a good idea and agreed that events needed to have more capability and be more self-reliant given the MRT situation. He appreciated that there may be fine line in the decision making process between some incidents and that the wording within the guidance was important.*

*JG asked what information the park held beforehand to enable contact to be made with organisers.*

PR stated that events were encouraged to register with the shared data base (between Gwynedd Council (GC) & the NP. This was not a public document and is shared between very few people and there were rules about Gdpr<sup>2</sup>. This enables us to know when, where, who and how many. They were planning to review this together with GC in the new year. They may consider sharing with the MRT but it contains a great deal of information so Gdpr rules may be an issue so events may have to be given the choice of opting for us to share the information or not. All major events use this system.

However, it was the very small groups that did not realise what the dynamics are. I.e. routes, mountain safety, litter control, carrying materials, sustainable transport etc.

*RP mentioned that having been involved himself in Ras Yr Wyddfa it was difficult for event organisers to achieve a balance between what they can provide in terms of safety/medical cover and where this affected their costs significantly and importantly where that level of care was before handing over to the NHS system.*

*JG added that it was important to take some of the load off the MRT for those minor injuries.*

PR added that they had looked at the wording that the MRT had suggested and although strongly worded they thought it better to leave it as it was. It could ways be reviewed at any time in the future.

## **7. Footpaths Llanberis 1 and 2 – proposed modifications-Peter Rutherford**

PR stated that whilst on a recent site visit (near the Snowdon Mountain Railway Hebron Station) between the area known as Brithdir (heading towards Maescwm) and the Llanberis track they had noticed an anomaly in the network between the two points. it was apparent that a short section of PRoW linking the two paths was missing. GC confirmed that it was an anomaly and that they would assist us in correcting this. PR added that it was baffling that this had never been noticed before. This cross route was important for those who required to get from the Llanberis path over to the Maescwm route back over to Snowdon Ranger and

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<sup>2</sup> Gdpr - General Data Protection Regulations

those walking back to the YHA in Llanberis. Especially using Gps in poor conditions. They would also re sign this as soon as possible.

*PW asked if this would be permissive link.*

PR stated that they would have to formalise this link as a legal PRoW.

## **8. Footpath 5b Moel Hebog – Peter Rutherford**

This route had been mentioned before to the LAF but the existing route of the PRoW ended at the bottom of a crag whist the walked line to the summit took another line. He would discuss this with the landowner. Either we do way with the line altogether or re direct this to the summit.

## **9. Recommended Agenda items of next meeting**

- i) Wild camping
- ii) Plas Tan Y Bwch update

## **10. Any Other business – This to be kept as short as possible and was at the discretion of the Chair.**

*i) RP asked if the LAF was going to hear about the British Mountaineering Club's perspective on 'wild camping'.*

PR stated that although Dartmoor National Park (DNP) had recently won the case against a landowner to maintain camping on parts of Dartmoor this was a unique situation and was within the Dartmoor Commons Act (1985). No other National Park has such exceptions apart from Loch Lomond National Park (LLNP) who now manage lakeside camping by permit.

This was following from the Scottish Outdoor Code, which allowed unfettered access including wild camping. However, the LLNP found it unmanageable due to the considerable amount of antisocial behaviour that followed around Loch Lomond. They now have a permit scheme. However, this is proving expensive and onerous to manage.

He does have a *precis* copy of the history pf the case leading up to this which he would make available at the next meeting. And would ask the BMC to attend to give their views on this topic.

The other NP's perspectives were similar to that of Eryri, however he would not mention those perspectives until after the members had had the opportunity to discuss this issue fully. *Both LAF's.*

*MJ asked if the CRoW Act could determine this issue. I.e. did it have to power to allow this activity.*

PR stated that wild camping *per se* was not covered within the CRoW Act as an allowable activity. Wild camping was strictly down to the goodwill and consent of

landowners unless bylaws were in place such as Dartmoor with the exception of Scotland where this was allowable under the Scottish Outdoor Code<sup>3</sup>.

*MJ asked if it was the Welsh Government who would make a decision on this.*

PR stated that WG did have the powers to change that legislation and wild camping was not covered in the Access Reform Groups in 2019. The (WG) may decide to look at it, however, this would mean making changes to the CRoW legislation which would require consultation.

*JG stated that if there was a formal ban of sorts then that would affect many outdoor centres with groups, particularly young people who do wild camp already. And that would be a huge disadvantage to the sector and that generation.*

PR commented that the fact was that wild camping (in the truest sense) was not a lawful activity in Wales or England without landowners consent. It was unfortunate that other issues such as fly camping have arisen post Covid which have reflected badly on those who understood the true ethos of wild i.e. 'leave no trace.' Fly camping has resulted in roadside and lay-by parking, verge parking, lakeside camping, open fires, antisocial behaviour, toileting issues, litter and organic litter.

*CM added that wild camping was an accepted practice.*

*EN did not agree with the stance. Just because it was undertaken on a de facto basis it did not make it a right even though this has occurred over many years.*

PR added that this should be left until the next meeting in February if the BMC could attend.

**ii)** AD asked what the position was regarding a replacement for Alan Prichard as the Carneddau and Ogwen Warden.

PR commented that there was now a replacement in place for one year – Dafydd Eryl who would be based in the Ogwen Office and not Betws Y Coed.

*EN commented that a replacement role was for one year only was not satisfactory. This was an important area and thought that this should be a permanent position and there was a great deal of unease in the area about this situation in various quarters.*

*JG asked if the NP Wardens had received training from the Police to deal with difficult members of the public.*

JD stated that as far as he knew they had not. However, some training is under discussion between the NWP and College Menai/Llandrillo about conflict management/resolution. In terms of the ENP many of these issues emanated from the problems experienced in Llyn Tegid - Bala. He added that if there was aggressive people involved then he would expect the Police to be involved at an early stage and Wardens should not be expected to challenge people who may be an unknown threat, which would be a matter for the Police.

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<sup>3</sup> [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) | [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#)

He added that the Bala Wardens in particular had proven to be very good at this conflict management given their unique situation but they should never put themselves into difficult or confrontational positions – their personal safety has to come first. Whilst out and about on Yr Wyddfa it was noticeable that the public are more likely to take notice of a Police uniform than a Warden in some cases.

**11. Dates of next meetings for 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2026, 8<sup>th</sup> June & 5<sup>th</sup> October**

*EN thanked all for their attendance and contribution this evening and wished them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*