



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Outdoor Activity

Improving opportunities to
access the outdoors for
responsible recreation

A consultation for children and young people

Being active in life is important.

Enjoying outdoor leisure activities is a big part of this.

No one should miss out because of poverty.

i Poverty – not having enough money to buy food, clothing and a safe place to live. It can mean people miss out on opportunities others enjoy.

The Welsh Government wants everyone to be able to enjoy outside activities as close to where they live as possible. This can help activities be free or cost less money.

There are already laws to make sure we have access to some types of land for walking and to a network of paths for walking, cycling, horse riding and other activities.

X3

In the last 10 years we've tripled the amount of land available by law to use for recreation and leisure.

This booklet tells you about possible changes to the law that will improve opportunities for outdoor activities for all.

We want to know what you think.

Outdoor activities

Good for your health

It lowers the risk of heart disease and helps to lose weight.

i Being outside in nature is also good for mental health.

Good for your social life

Outdoor activities can be fun. It's a good way to spend time with friends and learn new skills.

Good for the Welsh economy and jobs

Many visitors come to Wales to take part in outdoor activities. Their trips add money and jobs to local communities.

Good for protecting the environment

When people spend time enjoying nature they learn to protect it and look after it.



Changing the law

Local authorities, farmers and other people say that the laws we have in place are difficult to understand.

We want to change the law because of:

Places and activities – We want to make sure that people can do the activities they want in the places they want.

Costs and time – We want to make it easier and cheaper for local authorities and farmers to look after pathways, make sure they are kept clear and keep maps up-to-date.

Other issues – Sometimes using land and water for recreation can cause problems for farmers who look after animals, and for wildlife. We want to make the law clearer so that people know what they can do and where they can do it. We want everyone to enjoy the outdoors responsibly in ways that don't harm livelihoods, landmarks or the environment.

What do you think about these reasons for changing the law?



Wales has many beautiful places for people to enjoy and it's important we look after them for the future.

Our Vision

- More people taking part in outdoor activities and enjoying nature.
- Making better use of the opportunities and outdoor places we already have.
- Everyone understanding their responsibilities and the part they play in respecting others and nature.
- Systems that help manage paths better.
- Rules that help look after public paths in ways everyone can understand.
- Steps to keep people safe and protect the environment, wildlife and places of historical and cultural importance.
- Steps to help businesses and opportunities for new ones to start up.
- More support for outdoor leisure opportunities everyone can enjoy.



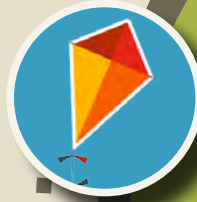
Challenges — getting everyone involved.

Everyone should be able to take part in outdoor activities no matter where they live. This means having places people can enjoy close to where they live, especially in towns and cities.

But, there are challenges people face that get in the way:



What stops you from taking part?



Different types of activities on land

We want to find ways to give people more opportunities to do different activities in more places. This means looking at changing some rules:

Cycle paths – some footpaths could easily be used by cyclists as well.

Bridleway rights for horses – more routes could be made into paths for horses.

Woodlands, lakes and coastal cliffs – some landowners don't want people using their land because they're worried about who'd be to blame if there was an accident. Changes would help everyone understand the rules better.

What outdoor activities would you like to have more opportunities to do?

Hiking/walking	Camping
Cycling	Mountain biking
Horse-riding	Running
Climbing	
or something else	

What activities do you do now and how often?



Rivers and other water

Using rivers and lakes can be great fun. Many different groups use them but sometimes this can cause problems. Views can differ on what people can do and where.

For example:



“Canoeists disturb fish and cause problems by damaging the river banks”



“People who fish keep waterways to themselves and stop others from using and enjoying them”

Changing the law could help people understand where and when they can use rivers and lakes.

What do you want to use rivers and other water for?

Swimming

Fishing

Gorge walking

or something else

Sailing

Canoeing / Kayaking

Paddle boarding

What activities do you do now and how often?



Coasts and sea



Wales has some of the most beautiful coastline in the world. People use it for climbing, coasteering, swimming, sailing, surfing and enjoying time on the beach.

We have already invested money in new coastal paths for everyone to enjoy but changing the law will help to clarify what people can do and where.

We will also work together with other parts of the Welsh Government to plan for activities on the coast and in the sea.

How close do you live to the coast and sea and what do you like to do there?

Is there anything we've missed?

Thanks for reading this:

Please send your answers to:

AccessandOutdoorRecreation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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