

March 2024 Thomas Carrick - North Wales Access Officer Report.

Overall winter 23-24 has been a very busy period, most of my work has been updating the RAD and working on longer term projects. We have also got a new CEO in place which I'm sure many people will have seen, early impressions are positive from my point of view, Paul is very approachable and seems to be keen on prioritising access issues, although his climbing knowledge is limited, we had a long conversation about kayaking access, and as that's his old sport he sees the importance of access. We shall see what actions bring.

A general question for this area meeting is what would you like to see the priorities being in Access over 2024?

#### Strategy

- BMC has been commenting on the new Eryri Tree and woodland strategy, its in a draft stage at present. The idea is currently positive however we shall see if it means more for woodland development.
- The recreation strategy for ENPA is also being reviewed and some changes towards climbing have been suggested.

#### Local and national issues

- Respect Bouldering- We are looking for volunteers to be involved in a short BMC respect bouldering film, please contact me for more details.
- Penmaen head quarry has been put up for sale at £20k the BMC had a quick look and feasibility however due to the likely large on going maintenance costs it would not be a suitable site for the BMC to manage, its likely the current owners are trying to rid themselves of the liability of the site. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- As an update in the south continued negotiations with the new landowner at Sirhowy looks like the BMC will help with the management of the site, its unclear yet if this will be in a formal agreement or not.
- New Llŷn guide book will be out soon (April/May), the authors have spent a lot of time working with RSPB deciding on the bird restrictions, and once the guide book is out the RAD will hopefully be as up to date as possible.
- Ash Dieback clearances has been done at BYM, this is statutory work that had to be undertaken.
- Afon Cynfal – Update
- Borth Y Gest and Barmouth Slabs- North Wales Fixed Gear Policy in action.
- The Winter Monitoring has been running well through the winter and it seemed like it was shared well via lots of channels, we just need some more winter.
- New Green Guide to the uplands has just been launched, please go to the BMC hill walking page to download a copy.
- BMC has been invited into the revived North Wales Mountain Safety group, following the highest number of call outs by local mountain rescue teams in 2023. North Wales Police with partners are hoping to deliver two interventions, one will look at the big picture of messaging, the other will be to fund wardens actually on Yr Wyddfa, using data gathered by LLMRT to target specific locations.
- BMC has been working with Mountain Training Cymru, following a few MLS groups been asked to leave wild camping spots on the northern Carneddau, we are hoping to set up some CPD courses for Mountain Leader Providers to go out with Kehoe land services who run

courses on Upland farming to try and bridge the gap between hill walkers and the farming community.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

- Upper Glaslyn Bowl crag clean up, in September we are hoping to run a clean up in the upper Glaslyn bowl, this includes the trinity gullies, we are hoping to work with Cymdeithas Eryri, Trash Free Trails, Plant life and ENPA in organising this event. Likely to be on the 19-21<sup>st</sup> of September.
- We are hoping to do some more Cotoneaster clearance, if anyone would like to help set up some volunteer days please contact me!
- BMC has been agreeing a partnership with the North Wales Wildlife Trust around the sea grass project, there will be opportunities for donating to the scheme as well as some volunteer days, this will be on the climate project page of the BMC. Dates will be 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 8<sup>th</sup> of May and 5<sup>th</sup> of August, more information will be available on the BMC website, and shared on BMC Cymru pages.