

ADRODDIAD CRYNODEB

*Cadwraeth
a Hamdden:
Her Afon Gwy*



TUAG AT

STRATEGAETH REOLI AR

GYFER AFON GWY

SEFYDLWYD CYNLLUN AFON GWY yn 1990 gan bartneriaeth o gyrff cyhoeddus, pob un â diddordeb mewn rheoli Afon Gwy. Y nod yw paratoi strategaeth ar gyfer rheoli chwaraeon a hamdden ar Afon Gwy, sydd hefyd yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd yr afon ar gyfer cadwraeth natur. Mae'r cynllun yn cynnwys Afon Gwy ar ei hyd, ac mae'n ymwneud â'r afon ei hun, ei glannau, a'r diddordebau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r afon.

Ariannu Cynllun Afon Gwy

Y Comisiwn Cefn Gwlad

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru

English Nature

Cyngor Sir Swydd Gaerloyw

Cyngor Sir Gwent

Cyngor Sir Henffordd a Chaerwrangon

Yr Awdurdod Afonydd Cenedlaethol

Cyngor Sir Powys

Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru

Y Cyngor Chwaraeon - Rhanbarth Gorllewin

Canolbarth Lloegr

Mae adroddiad llawn ar gasgliadau'r cynllun wedi ei gyhoeddi'n ddiweddar; "*Cadwraeth a Hamdden: Her Afon Gwy - Tuag at strategaeth reoli ar gyfer Afon Gwy*". Mae'r crynodeb hwn yn disgrifio'n fras gynnwys y prif adroddiad. Mae'n amlinellu rywfaint o'r wybodaeth gefndir sydd wedi ei chasglu, yn trafod y prif faterion rheolaeth ac yn rhoi crynodeb o'r prif argymhellion. Oreidrwydd, mae llawer iawn o wybodaeth gefnogol bwysig wedi ei hepgor o'r crynodeb hwn. Cyfeirir y rheini sydd am eglurhad a chyfiawnhad llawn o'r argymhellion at y prif adroddiad.

Dogfen ymgynghorol yw'r adroddiad. Ei swyddogaeth yw symbylu ac arwain y gweithredu. Mae ei gweithredu yn dibynnu ar ewyllys da a chydweithrediad pawb sy'n ymwneud â'r afon; nid cyrff cyhoeddus yn unig, ond perchnogion tir a pherchnogion pysgodfeydd, cyrff an-statudola defnyddwyr hamdden.

Aelodau o Bwyllgor Llywio Cynllun Afon Gwy

Yr Athro Ron Edwards

Mr Rob Brain

Mr David Drewett

Mr Jonathan Felton

Mr Richard Graves

Mr John Gregory

Mr Richard Howell

Dr Huw Jones

Mr David Keast

Mr James Marsden

Mrs Fiona Moore

Mr Peter Russell

Dr Peter Williams

Awdurdod Afonydd Cenedlaethol (Cadeirydd)

Cyngor Sir Gwent

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru

Cyngor Chwaraeon

Cyngor Sir Henffordd a Chaerwrangon

Awdurdod Afonydd Cenedlaethol

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Cyngor Sir Powys

English Nature

Comisiwn Cefn Gwlad

Cyngor Sir Henffordd a Chaerwrangon

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru

LLUNIAU'R CLAWR BLAEN:

Afon Gwy yn Nhyndyrn (Comiswn Cefn Gwlad), y Dyfrgi Ewropeaidd (J. Birks), Canwio (Awdurdod Afonydd Cenedlaethol), Pysgota Genwair wrth Bont Bigsweir (Bwrdd Croeso Cymru), Eog yn neidio (R. Edwards)

**Cynllun Afon Gwy, Swyddfa'r AAC, Hadnock Road,
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Rhagair

SEFYDLWYDCYNLLUN AFONGWY yn bennaf oherwydd anfodlonrwydd gan asiantaethau cyhoeddus a oedd â chyfrifoldebau cynllunio a rheoli dros yr afon a'i choridor. Ar y naill law, mae'n afon wych gyda golygfeydd di-ail a bywyd gwyllt ac adnoddau pysgota gwerthfawr iawn, ac ar y llaw arall y mae mwy a mwy o bobl yn dymuno ymweld â'r dyffryn i fwynhau'r adnoddau hyn. Sut all yr adnoddau hynny gael eu diogelu'n well a pha gamau sy'n angenrheidiol i achosi cynlleied â phosibl o broblemau gan nifer cynyddol yr ymwelwyr, nid yn unig i'r rheini sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yn y dyffryn, ond hefyd i grwpiau diddordeb gwahanol yr ymwelwyr eu hunain?

Cytunodd yr asiantaethau cyhoeddus sy'n cefnogi'r cynllun hwn yn ariannol i benodi swyddog cynllun am gyfnod o dair blynedd i grynhoi gwybodaeth am yr adnoddau amgylcheddol a'r ffordd y cânt eu defnyddio, nodi'r pynciau allweddol a gwneud argymhellion ar gyfer gwella diogelwch adnoddau'r afon a chynnal mwynhad yr afon a'i choridor gan drigolion ac ymwelwyr fel ei gilydd. Yn yr ynysoedd gorlawn hyn, anaml y bydd yn bosibl gwahanu gweithgareddau a rhaid i ni i gyd gyfaddawdu 'er lles pawb'. Dyna sail y cynigion rheoli a wneir yn yr adroddiad hwn ar y cynllun. Ni fydd pawb yn eu cymeradwyo, yn wir, os cânt gefnogaeth lwyr unrhyw un grŵp diddordeb, mae'n debyg y byddwn wedi cael yr ateb yn anghywir. Ond mae'n bwysig, cyn cymryd camau ar unrhyw un o'r cynigion hyn, fod y rheini sydd â diddordeb yn yr afon yn cael cyfle i roi eu barn i ni. Ein bwriad yw y bydd sylwadau wedi eu crynhoi erbyn diwedd y cyfnod ymgynghori (30 Medi), i helpu'r cyrff cyhoeddus hynny sy'n gyfrifol o fewn coridor yr afon ac i ystyried gweithredu ar y cynigion.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn a'r gwaith y mae'n ei gwmpasu i raddau helaeth yn gynnwys y swyddog cynllun, Mr Andy Neale. Mae'r Pwyllgor Llywio, sy'n cynrychioli'r cyrff noddi, yn dymuno cofnodi ei ddiolch cynhesaf am ei ddiwydrwydd, ei ymrwymiad, ac yn anad dim ei amynedd a'i hiwmor, yn wyneb yr her 'o'r tu mewn a'r tu allan'. Mae'r Pwyllgor hefyd yn dymuno cofnodi ei ddiolchgarwch i'r Dr. Richard Cresswell ac yn ddiweddarach i Mr. John Gregory o'r AAC a roddodd gefnogaeth gweinyddol ar gyfer y cynllun.

Er bod aelodau'r Pwyllgor Llywio yn cytuno'n fras am brif gasgliadau'r Adroddiad, ni fydd y cyrff noddi, drwy fabwysiadu'r polisiau yn y pendraw, mewn unrhyw ffordd yn cael eu rhwymo gan gasgliadau'r adroddiad.

Ron Edwards.

Yr Athro Ron Edwards

Cadeirydd

Pwyllgor Llywio

Cyflwyniad



FIGUR 1

Afon Gwy: lleoliad a phrif drefi

MAE AFON GWY yn rhedeg trwy rhai o'r darnau mwyaf deniadol ac amrywiol o gefn gwlad Prydain, yn amrywio o gorstir a mynyddoedd Canolbarth Cymru i olygfeydd ceunant dramatig gwaelod y cwm. O'r ffynhonnell ar lethrau Pumlumon i Gas-gwent, lle mae'n ymuno ag Aber Hafren, mae cymeriad yr afon yn newid o nant fynyddig fechan i fod yn afon ddofn sy'n llifo'n araf. Islaw Bigsweir, mae'n afon sy'n dibynnu ar y llanw. Mae'r mwyafrif helaeth o Ddyffryn Gwy yn wledig gydag ychydig boblogaeth, er bod Afon Gwy yn mynd drwy nifer o anheddau mawr. Mae'n 244km o hyd, ac yn un o brif afonydd Prydain.

Amafon o'r maint, mae Afon Gwy yn eithriadol o lân a naturiol ei chymeriad. Mae hynny'n cyfrannu at ei phwysigrwydd eithriadol ar gyfer cadwraeth natur, ffaith a gydnabyddir drwy ei phennu yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig (SSSI).

Mae Dyffryn Gwy yn adnabyddus am ei harddwch, ac mae'n dangos amrywiaeth o dirweddau o safon uchel. Mae rhan isaf y dyffryn, islaw Henffordd, wedi ei gydnabod yn un o'r tirweddau tir isel pwysicaf ym Mhrydain ac yn cael ei bennu yn Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol (AONB).

Mae Afon Gwy yn un o'n hadnoddau unigryw ar gyfer chwaraeon a hamdden. Hwyrach ei bod yn fwyaf adnabyddus am bysgota eog er ei bod yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi dod yn fwyfwy poblogaidd ar gyfer chwaraeon dŵr eraill, yn enwedig canwio. Mae yna hawl mordwyo cyhoeddus wedi ei sefydlu ar y rhan fwyaf o'r afon. Mae Dyffryn Gwy yn ardal bwysig o ran twristiaeth, ac mae'n denu miloedd lawer o ymwelwyr bob blwyddyn.

ANGHENION SY'N NEWID

Mynegwyd gofid nad yw rheolaeth Afon Gwy wedi cydfynd â'r newidiadau a achosir gan y pwysau gan chwaraeon a hamdden. Dyma'r prif ofidiau:

- y twf ym mhoblogrwydd nifer o weithgareddau cefn gwlad a hamdden dŵr; hynny'n golygu lefelau uchel o ddefnyddio a galw cynyddol am gael mynd i'r afon. Gall hynny olygu gor-ddefnyddio, anghyfleustra i bobl leol ac ymwelwyr, a phawb yn cael llai o fwynhad;
- gwrthdaro rhwng defnyddiau hamdden sy'n cystadlu;
- effaith bosibl defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden ar amgylchedd yr afon yn enwedig ei gwerth o ran cadwraeth;
- diffyg fframwaith wedi ei gytuno ar gyfer rheoli ei defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden.

AMCANION

Mae'r ymwybyddiaeth gynyddol o'r problemau sy'n gysylltiedig â defnyddio'r afon ar gyfer hamdden wedi golygu galwadau ar yr AAC a chyrrff cyhoeddus eraill i gymryd rhan fwy gweithgar yn rheoli'r afon. O ganlyniad, sefydlwyd Cynllun Afon Gwy. Dyma'r amcanion yn fras:-

- crynhoi cronfa wybodaeth am yr afon a'r ffordd y caiff ei defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden a diddordebau cadwraeth sy'n gysylltiedig â hynny;
- nodi prif faterion rheoli a gwrthdaro o ran diddordeb;
- awgrymu ffyrdd i leihau'r gwrthdaro a defnyddio'r afon i'w heithaf er mwyn diogelu ei nodweddion unigryw.

Gwersylla wrth Afon Gwy

ANDY NEALE

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD

Caiff yr adroddiad hwn ei lywio gan y gred gadarn y gall y rhan fwyaf o'r gwrthdaro diddordeb a'r bygythiadau amgylcheddol a fynegir ar Afon Gwy gael eu gostwng yn sylweddol drwy reolaeth a chynllunio effeithiol, ac y gellir gwneud hynny'n unig drwy gyfrwng strategaeth gyffredinol sy'n ystyried Afon Gwy yn ei chyfanrwydd. Yn dilyn ystyriaeth gan yr awdurdodau cynllunio a rheoli perthnasol ac ymgynghori â chyrff sydd â diddordeb, bwriedir i'r adroddiad fod yn sail ar gyfer datblygu strategaeth reoli wedi ei chytuno. Bydd hynny'n rhoi i noddwyr y cynllun fframwaith cadarn ar gyfer cyfeirio gweithredu rheoli yn y dyfodol.

Prif ddibenion yr adroddiad yw:-

- dwyn ynghyd wybodaeth am yr afon a sut y caiff ei defnyddio;
- arfarnu tueddiadau, pynciau, gwrthdaro a chyfle yng gysylltiedig â'i defnyddio ar gyfer chwaraeon a hamdden;
- darparu cymorth ar gyfer sefydlu amcanion clir a chyffredin y gellir cyfeirio gweithredu rheolaeth tuag atynt;
- awgrymu cynigion penodol ar gyfer gweithredu a fydd yn help i gyrraedd yr amcanion cyffredin hyn ac yn sail ar gyfer datblygu rhaglen fanwl o waith;
- helpu dwyn ynghyd wahanol asiantaethau a'u hannog i weithio gyda'i gilydd tuag at reoli'r afon mewn ffordd wedi ei chyd-gysylltu;
- symblu trafodaeth am yr afon a chynyddu ymwybyddiaetha dealltwriaeth am rai o'r problemau a'r pwysau sy'n ei hwynebu. Wrth wneud hynny, gobeithir cynhyrchu cefnogaeth gyffredinol i'r mesurau sy'n cael eu hawgrymu.

STRWYTHUR

Mae'r crynodeb hwn yn dilyn strwythur y prif adroddiad. Mae'r adrannau sy'n weddill yn cynnwys y canlynol:

- Y *cyd-destun* ar gyfer rheoli'r afon.
- Disgrifiad o *wybodaeth* am yr afon.
- Trafodaeth *materion rheoli*.
- Gweledigaeth *gyffredinol* ar gyfer ei rheoli yn y dyfodol.
- *Cynigion* ar gyfer ei gwella yn y dyfodol.

Cyd-destun

NI ELLIR RHEOLI Afon Gwy ar ei phen ei hun. Rhaid i unrhyw strategaeth reoli weithredu o fewn y fframwaith cyfreithiol a gweinyddol presennol, a rhaid iddi gydnabod unrhyw gyfyngiadau sy'n ei dirymu. Mae'r ffactorau sy'n dylanwadu ar gyd-destun yr adroddiad yn cynnwys y canlynol:

1. MORDWYO

Mae statws Afon Gwy fel afon fordwyo gyhoeddus, o leiaf cyn belled â'r Gelli Gandryll, yn sicr wedi cyfrannu at ei phoblogrwydd ar gyfer llawer math o hamdden dŵr. Sefydlwyd yr hawl honno gan Ddeddfau Seneddol yn yr 17fed ganrif. O ganlyniad, mae gan y cyhoedd hawl cyfreithiol i deithio ar hyd yr afon mewn cwch. Mae mordwyo Afon Gwy yn fordwyo hamdden bron yn llwyr. Am ei bod mor fas mewn mannau, ac oherwydd cyfyngiadau ffisegol eraill, ychydig iawn o gychod pŵersydd ar Afon Gwy. Caiff cychod modureu cyfyngu fel rheol i ychydig ddarnau hwnt ac yma a'r manau sydd o fewn cyrraedd y llanw. Am resymau cyfreithiol a hanesyddol, mae Afon Gwy yn anarferol am nad oes ganddi awdurdod mordwyo gweithredol. O ganlyniad, nid yw defnyddio cychod yn cael ei reoli, ac nid oes angen i gychod gael eu trwyddedu.

Mae pwerau newydd a roddwyd i'r AAC yn ei alluogi i gyflwyno is-ddeddfau i reoli mordwyo a mathau eraill o hamdden pan fydd yn ystyried bod angen gwneud hynny er mwyn sicrhau defnyddio'r afon mewn ffordd gytbwys.

2. Y FFRAMWAITH GWEINYDDOL

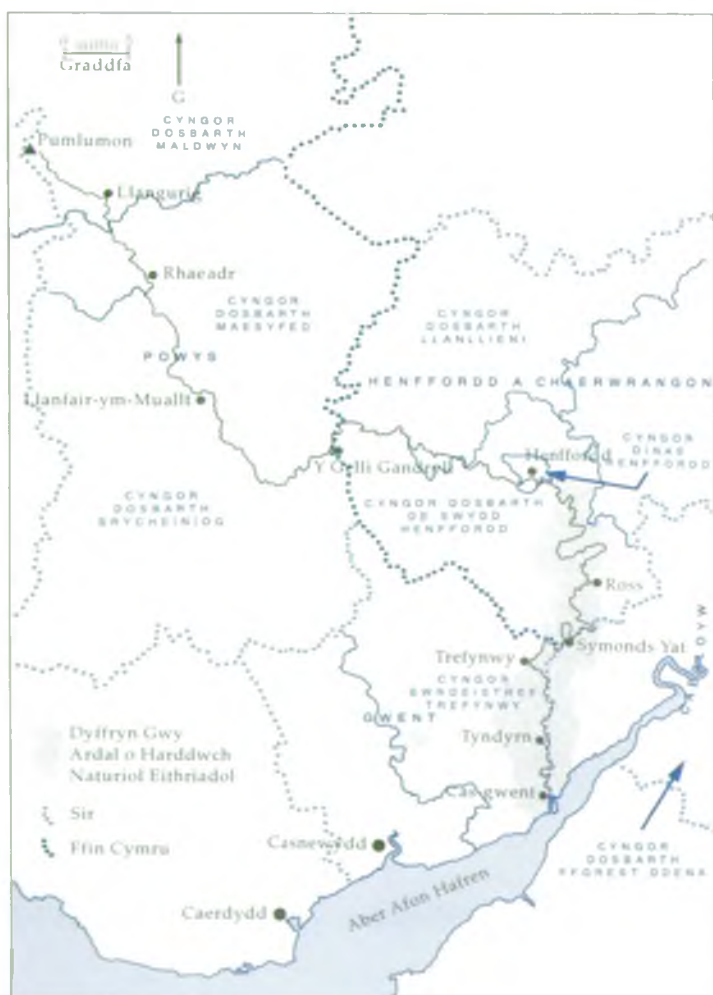
Mae'r cyfrifoldeb dros reoli Afon Gwy yn gymhleth ac yn ddarniog. Daw o dan benderfyniadau nifer fawr o asiantaethau cyhoeddus, yn ogystal â pherchnogion tir unigol a pherchnogion pysgodfeydd. Bydd gan eu gweithrediadau ddylanwad helaeth ar weithredu'r strategaeth reoli. Mae'n hanfodol cael dealltwriaeth gyffredin rhwng y gwahanol ddiddordebau hyn.

Ychwanegir ymhellach at anawsterau cyd-gysylltu gweithredu rheoli gan y ffaith fod Afon Gwy yn croesi cynifer o ffiniau gweinyddol. Mae'n rhedeg ar draws dwy sir, ac yn llifo drwy bedair sir ac wyth dosbarth a bwrdeistref. Mewn llawer achos, hi yw'r ffin rhwng awdurdodau cyffiniol. O ganlyniad, caiff y cyfrifoldeb gweinyddol ei rannu'n aml rhwng gwahanol awdurdodau lleol a rhwng swyddfeydd rhanbarthol cyrff cenedlaethol.

3. POLISIAU PRESENNOL

Bydd angen i'r strategaeth reoli gymryd i ystyriaeth bolisiau presennol amrywiaeth o asiantaethau. Gobeithio ymhen amser, y bydd yn symbyliad i'r asiantaethau hynny adolygu a diweddarau eu polisiau ynglyn â'r afon. Cynhwysir polisiau perthnasol mewn:

- cynlluniau datblygu statudol ar gyfer defnyddio tir wedi eu paratoi gan awdurdodau lleol;
- arweiniad an-statudol wedi ei baratoi gan rai awdurdodau lleol, gan gynnwys strategaethau hamdden cefn gwlad;
- cynllun Reoli (AONB) Dyffryn Gwy;
- canllawiau Rheoli Coedlannau Dyffryn Gwy;



FFIGUR 2

Afon Gwy: ffiniau gweinyddol a chenedlaethol

- polisiau cenedlaethol, gan gynnwys arweiniad cynllunio Adran yr Amgylchedd / Y Swyddfa Gymreig a strategaethau a datganiadau polisi wedi eu paratoi gan y Cyngor Chwaraeon a'r Comisiwn Cefn Gwlad / Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru.

4. ARDALOEDD WEDI EU PENNU

Mae llawer darn o dir o fewn Dyffryn Gwy wedi eu pennu oherwydd eu diddordeb amgylcheddol. Bydd y cyfyngiadau a osodir gan y penodiadau statudol ac an-statudol hyn yn cael dylanwad cryf ar reolaeth yn y dyfodol. Ymhlith y penodiadau perthnasol mae'r canlynol:-

- SSSI;
- AONB Dyffryn Gwy;
- Gwarchodleoedd Natur Cenedlaethol a Gwarchodleoedd Natur Lleol;
- safleoedd allweddol ar gyfer cadwraeth natur wedi eu nodi gan ymddiriedolaethau natur sirol ac eraill;
- Henebion wedi eu rhestru a safleoedd eraill o ddiddordeb archaeolegol.

5. RHEOLAETH BRESENNOL

Ar hyn o bryd ychydig iawn o reolaeth weithredol sydd dros chwaraeon a hamdden ar Afon Gwy. Mae hynny'n deillio'n rhannol o absenoldeb blaenorol unrhyw bwerau rheoli digonol ac yn rhannol i ddiffyg cyfrifoldeb rheoli cyffredinol nac unrhyw gynllun gweithredu dros yr afon. Bu'n anodd cael cydweithrediad angenrheidiol rhwng yr amrywiol gyrff cyfrifol, na chytuno ar amcanion cadarn ar gyfer rheoli'r afon. O ganlyniad, mae'r rheolaeth wedi bod yn ddigon di-gyswllt ac achlysurol.

Mae enghreifftiau o fentrau perthnasol presennol yn cynnwys:-

- datblygu nifer fach o safleoedd hamdden gan awdurdodau lleol;
- cynhyrchu *Calendr Prif Ddigwyddiadau Afon Gwy* gan yr AAC;
- llawlyfr *Afon Gwy* a dull gweithredu wedi ei baratoi gan Gynllun Afon Gwy;
- arweiniad i *Bobl sy'n Defnyddio Canô ar Afon Gwy* gan yr AAC ac *Arweiniad Genweirwyr ar Afon Gwy*;
- gweithgareddau dan Wasanaeth Cefn Gwlad Dyffryn Gwy.

Rafftio ar Afon Gwy



Gwybodaeth

GWYBODAETH DDA WEDI EI DIWEDDARU yw conglfaen cynllunio rheolaeth llwyddiannus. O ganlyniad, un o brif amcanion Cynllun Afon Gwy oedd casglu a chrynhof gwybodaeth gefndir am Afon Gwy a'r ffyrdd cysylltiedig o'i defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden a diddordebau cadwraeth. Mae cronfa wybodaeth ar gyfrifiadur wedi ei sefydlu i storio llawer o'r wybodaeth hon.

Mae'r wybodaeth wedi ei chasglu mewn amrywiol ffyrdd:

- Arolygon o'i defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden.
- Archwilio'r wybodaeth sydd eisoes yn bod.
- Ymgynghori ag amrywiaeth eang o gyrff ac unigolion sydd â diddordeb yn Afon Gwy.

Yn y crynodeb hwn, nid yw'n bosibl cynnwys yr holl wybodaeth a gasglwyd. Cyfeirir y darllenwyr at y prif adroddiad i gael y manylion llawn. Caiff y wybodaeth ei grynhoi isod o dan bedwar pennawd:

- Amgylchedd a chadwraeth
- Chwaraeon a hamdden
- Perchnogaeth
- Diddordebau hanesyddol a diwylliannol

1. AMGYLCHEDD A CHADWRAETH

Ystyrir Afon Gwy yn gyffredinol fel un o'r afonydd gorau yn y wlad ar gyfer cadwraeth natur. O'i chymharu â'r mwyafrif o'r prif afonydd eraill, mae'n gymharol rydd o lygredd (ac eithrio'r asideiddio yn rhai o'i rhannau uchaf) neu weithfeydd peirianeg, ac ychydig ddatblygiad adeiladau sydd ar hyd ei glannau. Mae'n dangos amrywiaeth o nodweddion ffisegol a chynefinoedd, yn deillio o ddaear sy'n newid a chyflymder y dŵr, a phrosesau naturiol erydu a gosod. Mae rheini'n cynnal amrywiaeth eang o fathau o blanhigion ac anifeiliaid.

I gydnabod ei phwysigrwydd cenedlaethol o ran cadwraeth natur, mae Afon Gwy wedi ei phennu yn SSSI. Mae'n un o dair afon yn unig ym Mhrydain gyfan i gael ei phennu felly ar ei hyd. Mae llawer o'r cynefinoedd gerllaw'r afon hefyd yn werthfawr o ran cadwraeth. Mae rheini'n cynnwys coedlannau gwaelod y dyffryn sy'n bwysig ar raddfa ryngwladol. Mae llawer o'r safleoedd hyn wedi eu pennu'n SSSI neu warchodleoedd



Coedydd Dyffryn Gwy

CHWARAEON A HAMDDEN AR AFON GWY

Gweithgareddau ar y Dŵr

Genweirio - helfa
- cwrs

Canwio
Rhwyfo
Raftio
Sgio dŵr
Jet-sgio
Cychod pleser
Cychod teithwyr
Nofio
Hwyllo

Gweithgareddau ar y Tir

Cerdded
Cael picnic
Gwyllo adar / Astudio Natur
Beicio
Marchogaeth
Dringo creigiau

natur neu wedi eu cydnabod fel arall oherwydd eu pwysigrwydd lleol. Dangosir y rheini ym Map 1. Mae'r prif adroddiad yn cynnwys rhestr fanwl o safleoedd cadwraeth pwysig o ran natur yn Nyffryn Gwy.

2. CHWARAEON A HAMDDEN

Gweithgareddau

Mae Afon Gwy yn un o'n hadnoddau unigryw o ran chwaraeon a hamdden. Mae'n un o brif afonydd eog Cymru a Lloegr, er yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, fel nifer o afonydd eraill ym Mhrydain, mae nifer y pysgod sy'n rhedeg yn y gwanwyn wedi dirywio'n ddifrifol. Mae hefyd yn gyfle gwych ar gyfer pysgota cwrs. Ers y 1970au, mae wedi datblygu yn un o'r afonydd canwio pwysicaf ym Mhrydain, gyda dŵr sy'n addas ar gyfer y mwyafrif o safonau a disgyblaethau yn y gamp. Mae yna glybiau rhwyfo sefydlog yn seiliedig yn Henffordd, Ross a Threfynwy. Yn fwydiweddar, mae gweithgareddau newydd wedi cychwyn, gan gynnwys raftio, sgio dŵr a jet-sgio.

Mae harddwch naturiol a heddwch Afon Gwy hefyd yn denu nifer fawr o ymwelwyr anffurfiol. Defnyddir ei glannau yn helaeth gan gerddwyr a phobl yn cael picnic, ac y maent yn gyrchfan boblogaidd i ymwelwyr a phobl sy'n dod am y dydd. Ymhlith y gweithgareddau ar y tir y mae gwyllo adar, beicio a marchogaeth.

Mae'n hanfodol cael gwybodaeth dda am lefel a dosbarthiad gweithgareddau hamdden ac am y bobl sy'n ymweld â'r afon. Ychydig iawn o fanylion sydd wedi eu crynhoi hyd yn hyn am ddefnyddio'r afon o ran hamdden. O ganlyniad, ystyriwyd bod crynhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf yn flaenoriaeth uchel. Gwnaed hyn drwy gyfrwng:

● Ymgynghori â grwpiau hamdden lleol;

● Cyfweiliadau holiadur gyda chynrychiolwyr y prif grwpiau defnyddwyr;

● Arolygon i fesur yr union ffordd y defnyddir yr afon.

Mynediad a Chyfleusterau i Ymwelwyr

Mae mynediad cyhoeddus yn hanfodol bwysig i werth Afon Gwy fel un o'n hadnoddau hamdden. Darperir mynediad felly yn bennaf drwy'r hawliau mordwyo a'r hawliau mynediad. Gall parciau a safleoedd amwynder cyhoeddus eraill gerllaw'r afon wella ymhellach fwynhad y cyhoedd o'r afon, yn arbennig lle bydd cyfleusterau cefnogi megis mannau picnic, parciau ceir a thoiledau cyhoeddus wedi eu darparu. Gall y safleoedd hyn helpu dylanwadu ar batrwm cyffredinol defnyddio o ran hamdden, gallant fod yn byrth i rannau o'r afon nad ydynt yn cael eu defnyddio i'r un graddau a bod yn gyfleustra pwysig i'r rheini nad oes ganddynt y wybodaeth neu'r gallu corfforol i ymchwilio ymhellach.

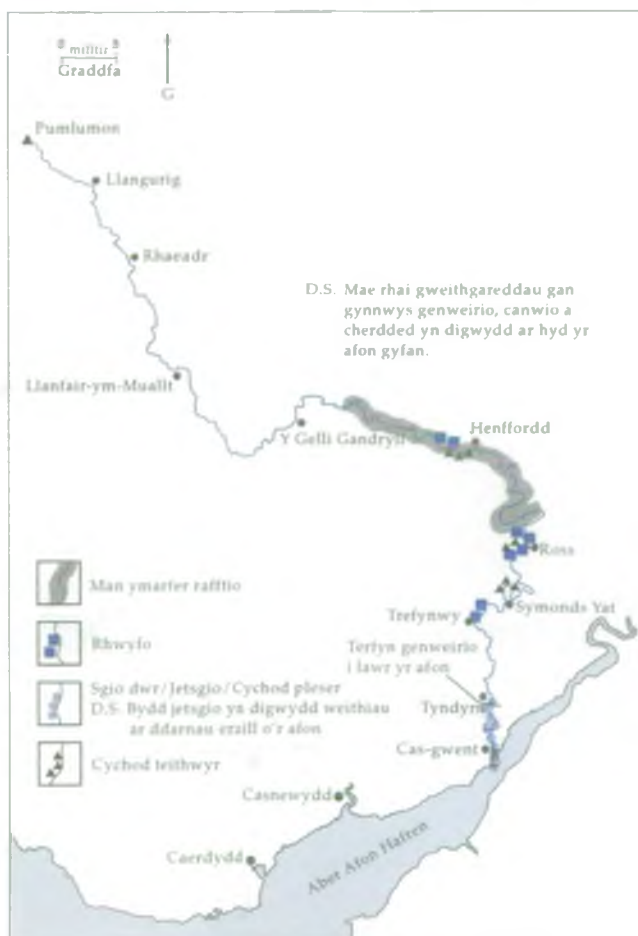
Mae'n hanfodol cael gwybodaeth dda am ansawdd a dosbarthiad y mynediad cyhoeddus a'r cyfleusterau hamdden er mwyn asesu a oes angen gwelliant. Mae manylion am y safleoedd presennol wedi eu crynhoi a dangosir eu dosbarthiad ym Map 3.

3. PERCHNOGAETH

Fel y rhan fwyaf o gefn gwlad Prydain, unigolion preifat biau'r rhan fwyaf o'r tir sy'n ffinio ag Afon Gwy. Mae'r un peth yn wir am berchnogaeth hawliau pysgota. Bydd yn bwysig cysylltu'n agos â pherchnogion tir unigol a pherchnogion pysgodfeydd wrth ystyried

FFIGUR 3

Afon Gwy: dosbarthiad prif weithgareddau hamdden



cynigion rheolaeth yn y dyfodol. Yn anffodus, nid oes cofrestr berchnogaeth gynhwysfawr ar gael, ac ni wyddwn pwy yw perchnogion rhai darnau o dir.

Gall perchnogion unigol gael dylanwad cryf ar reolaeth yr afon, yn enwedig drwy ddatblygu llwybrau ar lan yr afon a safleoedd mynediad, ac mewn rhannau lle nad oes hawliau mordwyo wedi eu sefydlu, drwy gytundebau mynediad ar gyfer cychod afon. Gallai cytundebau rheoli rhwng awdurdodau lleol a pherchnogion preifat greu cyfle mynediad ychwanegol ar y tir.

Gallai'r darnau hynny o dir sy'n eiddo i gyrrff cyhoeddus a rhai rhannau o dir comin wedi ei gofrestru, fod yn gyfle newydd pwysig i wella mynediad a darpariaeth hamdden. Mae gwybodaeth am y tir hwn wedi ei grynhoi a'i ddangos ym Map 3.

4. DIDDORDEB HANESYDDOL A DIWYLLIANNOL

Mae yna hanes maith o ymsefydlu gan ddyn yn Nyffryn Gwy, ac y mae gweithgareddau dyn wedi dylanwadu'n drwm ar Afon Gwy ei hun. Tan y ganrif ddiwethaf, yr oedd Dyffryn Gwy yn ganolfan ddiwydiannol brysur, ac yr oedd yr afon yn bwysig ar gyfer mordwyo masnachol. Gadawodd yr hanes hwn etifeddiaeth o adeiladau ac olion eraill. Mae'r rhain yn ein helpu i ddeall a gwerthfawrogi hanes yr afon, ac y maent yn gyfraniad pwysig i ddiddordeb a phwysigrwydd cyffredinol Afon Gwy.

Mae'n bwysig bod yn ymwybodol o unrhyw safleoedd o ddiddordeb archaeolegol neu hanesyddol wrth ystyried lleoliad a rheolaeth defnyddio'r afon yn y dyfodol ar gyfer hamdden. Mae gwybodaeth am y safleoedd hyn wedi ei chrynhoi a chaiff ei dangos ym Map 4.

Afon Gwy ger Llanfair-ym-Muallt



Materion rheolaeth

1. Y GALW AM CHWARAEON A HAMDDEN

Pynciau allweddol

- Anhawster rhagweld lefelau defnyddio yn y dyfodol ar gyfer hamdden a'r galw am fynediad a chyfleusterau.
- Asesu'r lefel ddefnyddio ar gyfer hamdden y gall yr afon ei gynnal heb achosi niwed i'r amgylchedd a gostyngiad sylweddol yn ansawdd y profiad hamdden a gynigir ganddi.
- Penderfynu'r mathau gorau o reolaeth, i gynnwys unrhyw gynnydd yn y ffordd y caiff ei defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden a thwf gweithgareddau penodol megis canwio.
- Cyfyngir rheolaeth o ran ei allu i ddylanwadu ar lefel a dosbarthiad y ffordd y caiff ei defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden.

2. EFFAITH AR YR AMGYLCHEDD

Pynciau allweddol

- Niwed ffisegol lleol i gynefin a thyfiant yr afon a achosir gan bwysau hamdden eithriadol ac ymddygiad difeddwl neu ddiotal.
- Effaith weledol a achosir gan a gwelliannau eraill i bysgodfeydd.
- Tarfu posibl ar fywyd gwyllt oherwydd rhai gweithgareddau hamdden, a gofid arbennig am yr effaith ar adar sy'n nythu ac eog sy'n claddu.
- Anhawster i benderfynu achosion a chwmpas y tarfu a diffyg gwybodaeth am yr arwyddocâd ecolegol dros gyfnod hir.
- Yr angen am archwilio ffyrdd i reoli mynediad a ffordd i ddefnyddio hamdden er mwyn achosi cyn lleied â phosibl o fygythiad tarfu neu niwed.

3. MORDWYO

Pynciau allweddol

- Ychydig iawn o reolaeth sydd ar fordwy o'r Afon Gwy. Yn wahanol i rai afonydd eraill, nid oes terfyn cyflymdra cyffredinol, dim rheolaeth ar nifer na math y cychod a dim gofyniad i drwyddedu cychod ar Afon Gwy. Gall y sefyllfa hon greu problemau i ddefnyddwyr eraill ac i'r amgylchedd.
- Dylid ystyried a oes angen ymarfer pwerau'r AAC i wneud is-ddeddfau, ac os felly, sut y gellid eu defnyddio'n fwyaf effeithiol.
- Nid oes gwybodaeth ar gael yn hawdd am nifer y cychod sy'n defnyddio Afon Gwy nac enw'r sawl sy'n defnyddio'r cychod, oherwydd diffyg cynllun cofrestru.
- Nid oes dulliau reoli ar gyfer digwyddiadau rasio, regata na chystadlaethau eraill.
- Mae yna anghydfod am hawl mordwyo uwchlaw'r Gelli Gandryll.
- Ni chaiff Afon Gwy ei chynnal yn effeithiol er mwyn mordwyo. Mae rhwystrau gan ddyn a'r ffaith fod cyflwr ffisegol y sianel mordwyo yn gwaethygu, yn achosi anawsterau mordwyo mewn rhai mannau.

4. GWRTHDARO GENWEIRIO-MORDWYO

Pynciau allweddol

- Hawlir y gall defnyddio cychod darfu ar bysgota, effeithio ar fwynhad genweirwyr a gostwng gwerth rhai pysgodfeydd.
- Nid oes cytundeb barn am union natur nac achosion y gwrthdaro, na'r ffyrdd gorau o'i leihau.
- Mae angen datrys yr anghydfod mordwyo uwchlaw'r Gelli Gandryll mewn ffordd sy'n dderbyniol i bawb dan sylw.

5. MYNEDIAD A CHYFLEUSTERAU YMWELWYR

Pynciau allweddol

- Mae mynediad gan y cyhoedd i lannau'r afon drwy'r rhwydwaith hawl tramwyo yn gyfyngedig iawn mewn mannau. 42% yn unig o hyd yr afonsydd ag unrhyw fynediad i'r cyhoedd at lan yr afon.
- Mae diffyg mynediad yn golygu gor-ganolbwyntio pwysau gan ymwelwyr ar ychydig safleoedd ac mae'n lleihau'r cyfle i ddylanwadu ar ddosbarthiad gweithgareddau hamdden.
- Mae prinder cyfleusterau addas ar gyfer defnyddio cychod canŵ.
- Heb fynediad iawn wedi ei gynllunio mewn mannau addas, mae gallu ymwelwyr i fwynhau'r afon yn lleihau.
- Mae ansawdd ac amrywiaeth y cyfleusterau mewn rhai mannau amwynder cyhoeddus yn wael.

6. GWYBODAETH A DEHONGLI

Pynciau allweddol

- Mae yna ddiffyg ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith rhai pobl sy'n defnyddio'r afon ac ymwelwyr cyffredinol am y cyfle sydd ar gael ar gyfer mynediad a hamdden. Mae yna gymhlethdod cyffredinol am hawliau mynediad a mordwyo.
- Mae llawer o ymwelwyr heb werthfawrogi nodweddion arbennig Afon Gwy a safon yr ymddygiad sy'n angenrheidiol i ddiogelu'r nodweddion hynny.
- Mae'n anodd cyflwyno gwybodaeth i nifer fawr o ymwelwyr ar Afon Gwy, lawer ohonynt heb fod yn aelodau o unrhyw gyrff cydnabyddedig.
- Mae darparu gwybodaeth a defnydd dehongli am yr afon yn ddi-gyswllt ac yn ddiffygiol o ran neges glir.

7. YMDDYGIAD

Pwnc allweddol

- Mae llawer o'r gwrthdaro rhwng defnyddwyr hamdden a'r bygythion i'r amgylchedd yn deillio o ymddygiad difeddwl a di-hid. Fel rheol, mae hynny'n deillio o anwybodaeth a diffyg dealltwriaeth yn hytrach na dymuniad gwirioneddol i gamymddwyn. Mae angen archwilio'r ffyrdd mwyaf effeithiol o wella safon ymddygiad yn gyffredinol a hybu mwy o ymwybyddiaeth o fuddiannau eraill.

8. ANGHENION YMCHWIL

Pynciau allweddol

- Ni chafwyd system drefnus o gadw llygad ar weithgarwch hamdden ar Afon Gwy yn y gorffennol. Oganlyniad, ychydig wybodaeth sydd am lefel a dosbarthiad y ffordd y caiff yr afon ei defnyddio. Cychwyn yn unig yw'r arolygon a ddisgrifir yn y prif adroddiad.
- Mae'n anodd dod i gasgliadau cadarn am gwmpas yr effaith ar yr amgylchedd sy'n deillio o chwaraeon a hamdden am nad yw'r wybodaeth wyddonol angenrheidiol ar gael.

Cynigion

GWELEDIGAETH

Dylai rheolaeth yn y dyfodol gael ei llywio gan dair egwyddor gyffredinol.

1. Mae yna angen cyffredinol am ddiogelu amgylchedd arbennig Dyffryn Gwy rhag effaith ddinistriol chwaraeon a hamdden.
2. Dylai'r rheolaeth geisio defnyddio'r afon mewn ffordd briodol er lles mwyaf pawb. Dylai geisio cael cydbwysedd rhwng gwahanol fuddiannau cyfreithiol a lleihau'r gwrthdaro rhwng grwpiau diddordeb sy'n cystadlu.
3. Dylai'r cyfle ar gyfer mynediad ac amrywiaeth ac ansawdd y cyfleusterau hamdden gael eu gwella i alluogi pobl i barhau i fwynhau'r afon, o fewn y cyfyngiadau a osodir gan yr angen am ddiogelu'r amgylchedd a'r hawliau perchnogaeth.

CYNIGION

Mae'r prif adroddiad yn cynnwys cynigion a fwriedir i sicrhau gwell rheolaeth dros yr afon a datrys llawer o'r anghydfodau presennol. Mae'r rhain yn perthyn i chwe dosbarth:

- Rheolaeth yn y dyfodol
- Hybu cydweithrediad a dealltwriaeth
- Gwybodaeth a dehongli
- Rheolaeth statudol
- Mynediad a chyfleusterau ymwelwyr
- Cadw llygad ac anghenion ymchwil.

Gwelir isod grynodedeb o'r cynigion allweddol:

RHEOLAETH YN Y DYFODOL

1. Dylid sefydlu pwyllgor llywio o asiantaethau cyhoeddus i sicrhau cydweithrediad agos wrth ddatblygu a gweithredu'r strategaeth reoli a'r rhaglen weithio a ddylai deillio o'r cynigion hyn ar ôl ymgynghori'n briodol a llunio penderfyniadau gan yr asiantaethau dan sylw.
2. Felly asiantaeth allweddol sy'n gyfrifol am yr afon, dylai'r AAC mentro i geisio cael cydweithrediad drwy'r pwyllgor llywio ynglŷn â chymau rheolaeth yn y dyfodol.
3. Dylid cadw llygad ar y strategaeth reolaeth a'i hadolygu'n rheolaidd. Bydd angen hynny i fesur ei heffeithiolrwydd a sicrhau ei bod yn cael ei diweddarau a'i bod yn berthnasol o dan amgylchiadau sy'n newid.

HYBU CYDWEITHREDIAD A DEALLTWRIAETH

4. Dylid sefydlu grŵp cysylltu yn cynrychioli defnyddwyr yr afon a buddiannau perthnasol eraill i sicrhau ymgynghori'n llawn â'r buddiannau hynny a'u bod yn rhan o reolaeth yr afon ac yn dwyn ymlaen gynigion y strategaeth reoli. Dylai'r grŵp hwnnw weithio ar y cyd â'r pwyllgor llywio a'i gynghori.
5. Dylid mabwysiadu dull gweithredu yn seiliedig ar hwnnw a gynhwysir yn 'Llawlyfr Afon Gwy' a'i hybu'n brysur mewn ymgais i annog pobl i ymddwyn yn gyfrifol a meithrin ysbryd o ewylllys da a chydweithrediad rhwng pobl sy'n defnyddio'r afon.
6. Dylai'r Cyngor Chwaraeon a'r cyrff rheoli cychod canŵ annog defnyddwyr cychod canŵ masnachol a sefydliadol yn lleol i greu cymdeithas, ac un o'i amcanion fyddai cytuno ar ddulliau gweithredu ac ymddygiad da. Dylai pobl sy'n defnyddio cychod canŵ gael eu hannog i fod yn aelodau o Undeb Canwio Prydain neu Gymdeithas Canwio Cymru.

GWYBODAETH A DEHONGLI

7. Dylai safon a dosbarthiad cyffredinol y wybodaeth am yr afon gael eu gwella gan fabwysiadu dull mewnol cyffredinol ar gyfer yr afon yn gyfan.
8. Dylid cynhyrchu arweiniad cynhwysfawr i'r sawl sy'n defnyddio'r afon i roi cyngor am ymddygiad, cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth am bwysigrwydd yr afon a darparu gwybodaeth am gyfleusterau a chyfle ar gyfer hamdden.

9. Dylid sefydlu amrywiaeth o fyrddau hysbysu a phaneli dehongli mewn mannau strategol ar hyd yr afon.
10. Dylid defnyddio dulliau rheoli llymach dros godi arwyddbyst a hysbysebion yn anelu at bobl sy'n defnyddio cychod canŵ a chychod eraill. Dylai'r AAC gydweithredu datblygu system safonol o hysbysiadau mordwyo, drwy ymgynghori â pherchnogion tir, perchnogion pysgodfeydd a phobl sy'n defnyddio cychod.
11. Dylai'r AAC barhau i gyd-gysylltu cynhyrchu calendr blynyddol o ddigwyddiadau ar gyfer Afon Gwy a sicrhau ei fod ar gael yn eang.
12. Dylai'r AAC barhau i gynhyrchu canllawiau i bobl sy'n defnyddio canŵ ac i enweirwyr sy'n defnyddio Afon Gwy.

RHEOLAETH STATUDOL

13. Pan fydd yn bosibl, dylai'r AAC gyflwyno is-ddeddfau i reoli hamdden ar Afon Gwy, er mwyn sicrhau ei bod yn bosibl parhau i'w mwynhau fel dyfrffordd hamdden, i ddiogelu'r amgylchedd a diogelu buddiannau eraill. Dylai is-ddeddfau:
 - gyflwyno cynllun cofrestru ac adnabod ar gyfer pob cwch sy'n defnyddio Afon Gwy;
 - cyflwyno terfynau cyflymder ar gyfer cychod;
 - gosod cyfyngiadau lle bydd angen a chyn belled â phosibl ar leoliad ac amserau rhai gweithgareddau mordwyo ddigwydd; gan gynnwys digwyddiadau cystadleuol a chwaraeon dŵr cyflym;
 - pennu safonau ymddygiad i'r rheini sy'n defnyddio'r afon a'i glannau ac atgyfnerthu'r dull gweithredu gwirfoddol.

MYNEDIAD A CHYFLEUSTERAU YMWELWYR

14. Dylid chwilio am gyfle i wella mynediad i gerddwyr at rannau o lannau'r afon lle mae mynediad i'r cyhoedd ar hyn o bryd wedi ei gyfyngu, a lle na fydd hynny'n gwrthdaro a buddiannau cyfreithlon eraill.
15. Dylid archwilio'r cyfle a fyddai'n gwella safon gyffredinol a darpariaeth safleoedd hamdden a chyfleusterau i ymwelwyr yn gysylltiedig â'r afon. Dylai gwelliannau, i alluogi defnyddio'r safleoedd presennol i'w heithaf, gael eu gwneud pryd bynnag y bydd yn bosibl. Dylai'r safleoedd ychwanegol gael eu datblygu pan fydd angen wedi ei sefydlu a phan fydd cyfle amlwg ar gael. Dylai unrhyw ddatblygiad newydd fod yn gyson â diogelu buddiannau'r amgylchedd.
16. Dylai safon a darpariaeth y mannau i lansio a glanio cychod canŵ gael eu gwella i ganiatáu mynediad diogel i bob rhan o'r afon y gellir eu mordwyo, lle mae hynny'n gyson â'r angen am ddiogelu buddiannau'r amgylchedd.
17. Dylid annog darparu safleoedd gwersylla ychwanegol a llety sylfaenol arall dros nos yn agos i'r afon yn y mannau hynny lle mae'r ddarpariaeth yn annigonol, a lle na fydd hynny'n gwrthdaro a buddiannau cyfreithlon eraill.
18. Dylid ystyried gwella mynediad i rannau o'r afon i feicwyr drwy ddatblygu ffyrdd beiciau oddi ar y ffordd yn bennaf yn Nyffryn Gwy.

CADW LLYGAD AC ANGHENION YMCHWIL

19. Dylai'r gronfa wybodaeth bresennol am Afon Gwy gael ei chynnal a'i gwella.
20. Mae angen asesu effaith amrywiol weithgareddau hamdden ar ddiogelu bywyd gwyllt, gan gynnwys cynnal yr eog yn yr afon.
21. Mae angen rhaglen reolaidd o arolygon ac o gadw llygad i fesur newidiadau yn lefel a dosbarthiad y ffordd y caiff yr afon ei defnyddio ar gyfer hamdden a newidiadau yn yr adnoddau bywyd gwyllt.
22. Dylid ymgymryd ag astudiaethau cyfreithiol pellach i geisio datrys yr ansicrwydd ynglŷn â chwmpas hawliau mordwyo a mynediad.

LAND OWNERSHIP PERCHNOGAETH TIR



HISTORICAL INTERESTS

DIDDORDEBAU HANESYDDOL



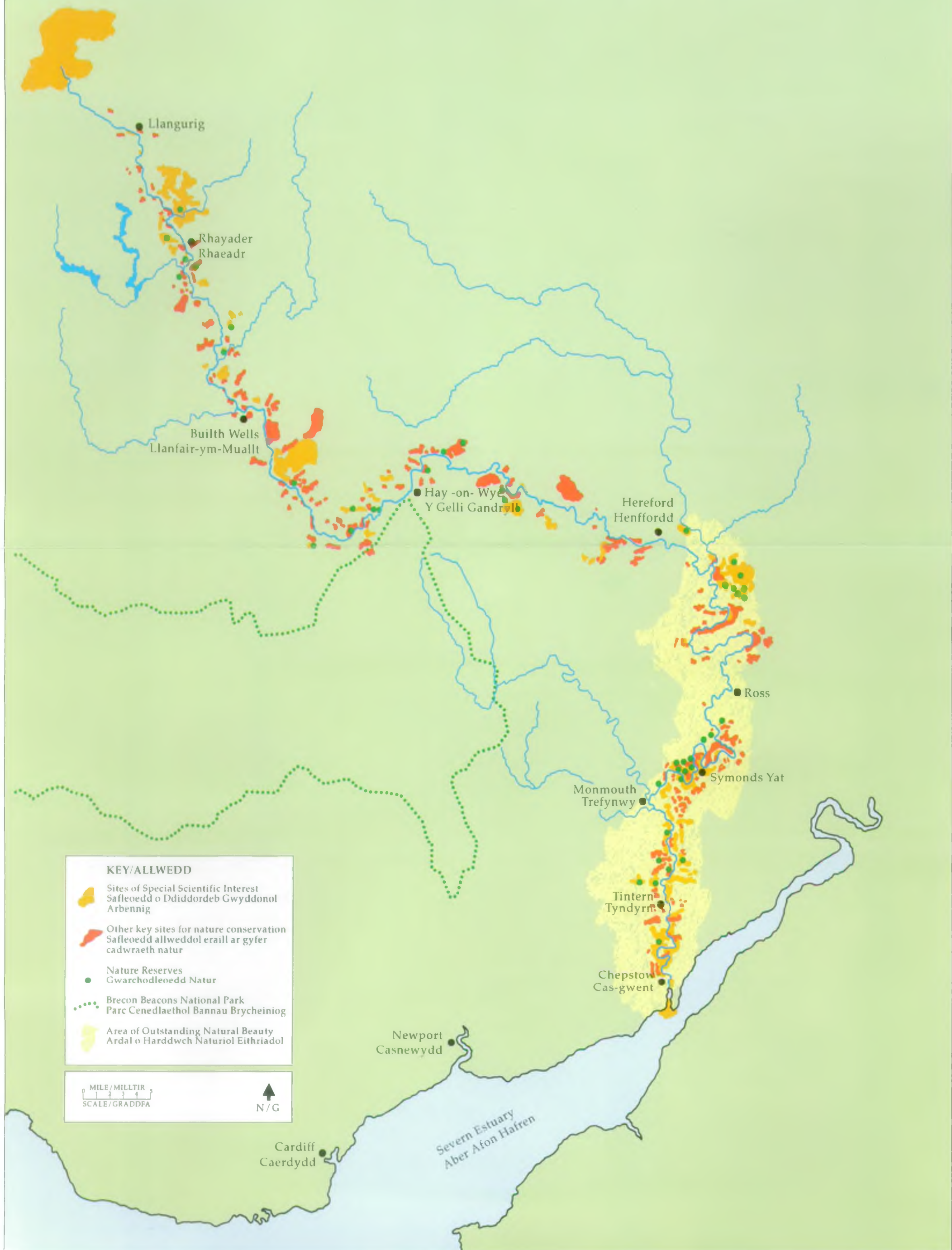
RECREATION AND VISITOR FACILITIES

CYFLEUSTERAU HAMDDEN AC YMWELWR



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

YR AMGYLCHEDD A CHADWRAETH



Conservation & Recreation: The Wye Challenge



TOWARDS

A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

FOR THE RIVER WYE



THE WYE PROJECT was set up in 1990 by a partnership of public bodies, each with an interest in the management of the River Wye. Its objective is to prepare a strategy for managing sport and recreation on the river, which also recognises its importance for nature conservation. The project covers the full length of the Wye, and relates to the river itself, its banks, and interests associated with the river.

River Wye Project Funding

Countryside Commission	Hereford and Worcester County Council
Countryside Council for Wales	National Rivers Authority
English Nature	Powys County Council
Gloucestershire County Council	Sports Council for Wales
Gwent County Council	Sports Council - West Midlands Region

A full report on the findings of the project has recently been published; "*Conservation and Recreation: The Wye Challenge - Towards a management strategy for the River Wye*". This summary briefly describes the content of the main report. It outlines some of the background information that has been collected, discusses the key management issues and summarises its main recommendations. Of necessity, a great deal of important supporting information has been omitted from this summary. Those wanting a full explanation and justification of the recommendations are referred to the main report.

The report is an advisory document. Its role is to stimulate and guide action. Its implementation relies upon the goodwill and cooperation of all concerned with the river; not just public bodies, but land owners and fishery owners, non-statutory organisations and recreational users.

Members of the Wye Project Steering Committee

Professor Ron Edwards	<i>National Rivers Authority (Chairman)</i>
Mr Rob Brain	<i>Gwent County Council</i>
Mr David Drewett	<i>Countryside Council for Wales</i>
Mr Jonathan Felton	<i>Sports Council</i>
Mr Richard Graves	<i>Hereford and Worcester County Council</i>
Mr John Gregory	<i>National Rivers Authority</i>
Mr Richard Howell	<i>National Rivers Authority</i>
Dr Huw Jones	<i>Sports Council for Wales</i>
Mr David Keast	<i>Powys County Council</i>
Mr James Marsden	<i>English Nature</i>
Mrs Fiona Moore	<i>Countryside Commission</i>
Mr Peter Russell	<i>Hereford and Worcester County Council</i>
Dr Peter Williams	<i>Countryside Council for Wales</i>

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

The Wye at Tintern (Countryside Commission), European otter (J. Birks), Canoeist (National Rivers Authority), Angling at Bigsweir Bridge (Wales Tourist Board), Leaping salmon (R. Edwards).

Foreword

THE WYE PROJECT was set up principally because of the unease by public agencies which had planning and management responsibilities for the river and its corridor. On the one hand it is a superb river with scenery second to none and with wildlife and fishery resources of great value, and on the other hand it has more and more people wishing to visit the valley and enjoy those qualities. How might these resources be better protected and what steps need to be taken to minimise problems caused by increasing visitor numbers, not only to those who live and work in the valley but also between the different interest groups of visitors themselves?

The public agencies financially supporting this project agreed to appoint a project officer for a period of three years to obtain information on the environmental resources and the use made of them, to identify the key issues and to make proposals for improving the protection of the resources of the river and for sustaining the enjoyment of the river and its corridor by residents and visitors alike. In these crowded islands, the separation of activities is rarely possible and we must all make compromises for 'the greater good'. It is in this spirit that management proposals are made in this report of the project. They will not be to everyone's liking, indeed if they are given the wholehearted support of any single interest group we probably 'have it wrong'. But it is important that before action is taken on any of these proposals, those who have an interest in the river have an opportunity to inform us of their views. It is our intention that at the end of the consultation period (30th September), observations will be collated to assist those public bodies having responsibilities within the river corridor and considering action on the proposals.

This report and the work it encapsulates is very much the product of the project officer, Mr. Andy Neale. The Steering Committee, representing the sponsoring bodies, wishes to record its sincere thanks for his diligence, commitment and, not least, his forbearance and good humour, in the face of testing challenges both from 'within and without'. The Committee also wishes to record its gratitude to Dr. Richard Cresswell and latterly, Mr. John Gregory of the NRA who provided administrative support for the project.

Whilst the members of the Steering Committee are in broad agreement about the main conclusions in the Report, the sponsoring bodies, in eventually adopting policies, will, in no sense, be bound by the report's conclusions.



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Chairman
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Introduction



FIGURE 1
River Wye: location and main towns

THE RIVER WYE flows through some of the most attractive and varied countryside in Britain, ranging from the moorlands and mountains of Mid-Wales to the dramatic gorge scenery of the lower valley. From its source on the slopes of Plinlimon, to Chepstow where it enters the Severn Estuary, the character of the river changes from a shallow mountain stream to a deep, slow flowing river. Below Bigsweir it is tidal. Most of the Wye Valley is rural and sparsely populated, though the Wye does pass through several large settlements. At 244 km long, it is one of Britain's major rivers.

For a river of its size the Wye is remarkably unpolluted and natural in character. This contributes to its outstanding importance for nature conservation, a fact acknowledged by its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Wye Valley is known for its great beauty, and exhibits a range of high quality landscapes. The lower valley, below Hereford, has been recognised as one of the most important lowland landscapes in Britain and is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The River Wye is a unique resource for sport and recreation. It is perhaps best known for its salmon fishing, though in recent years it has become increasingly popular for other water sports, especially canoeing.

There is an established public right of navigation over much of the river. The Wye Valley is an important area for tourism, attracting many thousands of visitors each year.

CHANGING NEEDS

Concern has been expressed that the management of the Wye has not kept pace with the changes brought about by the pressures from sport and recreation. The main concerns are:

- the growth in popularity of many countryside and water recreation activities, leading to high levels of use and increasing demands for access to the river. This can cause congestion, inconvenience to local people and visitors, and diminished enjoyment;
- conflict between competing recreational uses;
- the potential impact of recreational use on the river environment, particularly its conservation value;
- the absence of an agreed framework for managing recreational use.

OBJECTIVES

The growing awareness of the problems associated with recreational use has led to demands for the NRA and other public bodies to take a more active role in managing the river. As a result, the Wye Project was established. Its broad objectives are to:-

- compile a database of information about the river and its associated recreational uses and conservation interests;
- identify key management issues and conflicts of interest;
- suggest ways of reducing conflict and optimising the use of the river so as to sustain its unique qualities.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is guided by the firm belief that most of the conflicts of interest and environmental threats expressed on the Wye can be appreciably reduced by effective management and planning, and that this can only be achieved by means of an overall strategy which considers the Wye as a whole. Following consideration by the relevant planning and management authorities and consultation with interested bodies, it is intended that the report will form the basis for the development of an agreed management strategy. This will provide the project's sponsors with a firm framework for directing future management action.

The main purposes of the report are to:-

- bring together information about the river and how it is used;
- evaluate trends, issues, conflicts and opportunities associated with its use for sport and recreation;
- provide an aid to establishing clear and common objectives to which management action can be directed;
- suggest specific proposals for action which will help to achieve these common objectives and to provide a basis for the development of a detailed programme of work;
- help to bring together different agencies and encourage them to work collectively towards the coordinated management of the river;
- stimulate discussion about the river and raise awareness and understanding of some of the problems and pressures it is facing. In doing so it is hoped that widespread support for the measures proposed will be generated.

STRUCTURE

This summary follows the structure of the main report. The remaining sections cover the following:

- The *context* for managing the river.
- Description of *information* about the river.
- Discussion of *management issues*.
- The overall *vision* for future management.
- *Proposals* for improving management.



Camping beside the
River Wye

Context

THE WYE cannot be managed in isolation. Any management strategy must operate within the existing legal and administrative framework and must recognise any overriding constraints. Factors influencing the context of the report include the following:

1. NAVIGATION

The status of the Wye as a public navigation, at least as far upstream as Hay, has undoubtedly contributed to its popularity for many forms of water recreation. This right was established by Acts of Parliament in the 17th Century. As a consequence, members of the public have a legal right to travel by boat on the river. Almost all navigation on the Wye is recreational. Due to its shallowness in places and other physical constraints, there are very few powered craft on the Wye. Motor boats are generally limited to a few isolated stretches and the tidal reaches.

For legal and historical reasons, the Wye is unusual in that it does not have an active navigation authority. As a result, boating is largely unregulated, and craft are not required to be licensed.

New powers granted to the NRA enable it to introduce bylaws to manage navigation and other forms of recreation where it considers this necessary in order to secure the balanced use of the river.

2. THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

Responsibility for managing the Wye is complex and fragmented. It is subject to the decisions of a large number of public agencies, as well as individual land owners and fishery owners. Their actions will have an important bearing on the implementation of the management strategy. It is essential that a common understanding is reached between these different interests.

The difficulties of coordinating management action are further compounded by the fact that the Wye straddles so many administrative boundaries. It spans two countries, and flows through four counties and eight districts and boroughs. In many cases it forms the boundary between adjacent authorities. As a consequence, administrative responsibility is often split between different local authorities and between regional offices of national bodies.

3. EXISTING POLICIES

The management strategy will need to take into account the existing policies of a variety of agencies. It will hopefully, in time, provide a stimulus by which these agencies can review and update their policies relating to the river. Relevant policies are contained in:

- statutory land use development plans prepared by local authorities;
- non-statutory guidance prepared by some local authorities, including countryside recreation strategies;
- the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan;



FIGURE 2
*River Wye: administrative
and national boundaries*

- the Wye Valley Woodland Management Guidelines;
- national policies, including DOE/Welsh Office planning guidance, and strategies and policy statements prepared by the Sports Councils and the Countryside Commission/Countryside Council for Wales.

4. DESIGNATED AREAS

Many areas of land within the Wye Valley have been designated for their environmental interest. The constraints imposed by these statutory and non-statutory designations will have a strong influence on future management. Relevant designations include:-

- SSSIs;
- The Wye Valley AONB;
- National Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves;
- key sites for nature conservation, identified by county nature trusts and others;
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of archaeological interest.

5. PRESENT MANAGEMENT

At present there is very little active management of sport and recreation on the Wye. This is due in part to the previous absence of adequate regulatory powers, and in part to the lack of overall managerial responsibility or an agreed action plan for the river. It has proved difficult to achieve the necessary degree of cooperation between the various responsible bodies, or to agree firm objectives for management. As a result, management has been largely uncoordinated and opportunistic.

Examples of relevant current initiatives include:-

- the development of a small number of recreation sites by local authorities;
- production of the annual *Wye Calendar of Major Events* by the NRA;
- the *River Wye Handbook* and code of conduct prepared by the Wye Project;
- the NRA's *Canoeists Guide to the Wye* and *Wye Angling Guide*;
- activities undertaken by the Wye Valley Countryside Service.

Rafting on the River Wye



Information

GOOD, UP-TO-DATE information is the cornerstone of successful management planning. Consequently, one of the main objectives of the Wye Project was to collect and collate background information about the Wye and its associated recreational uses and conservation interests. A computer database has been established to store much of this information.

Information has been collected by a variety of means:

- Surveys of recreational use.
- Examination of existing information.
- Consultations with a broad range of organisations and individuals with an interest in the Wye.

In this summary it is not possible to include all the collected information. Readers are directed to the main report for full details. The information is summarised below, under four headings:

- Environment and conservation
- Sport and recreation
- Ownership
- Historical and cultural interests

1. ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

The Wye is widely regarded as one of the finest rivers in the country for nature conservation. Compared with most other major rivers, it is relatively unaffected by pollution (except for acidification in some upper reaches) or engineering works, and there is little built development along its banks. It exhibits a range of physical features and habitats, resulting from changing geology and water velocity, and the natural processes of erosion and deposition. These support a wide diversity of plant and animal species.

In recognition of its national importance for nature conservation, the Wye has been designated an SSSI. It is one of only three rivers in Britain to be designated in this way for its entire length. Many habitats adjacent or close to the river are also valuable for conservation. These include the internationally important woodlands of the lower valley. Many of these sites have been designated



Wye Valley woodland

SPORT AND RECREATION ON THE WYE

Water-based activities

- Angling - Game
- Coarse

Canoeing
Rowing
Rafting
Water-skiing
Jet-skiing
Pleasure launches
Passenger cruisers
Swimming
Sailing

Land-based activities

Walking
Picnicing
Birdwatching/Nature
Study
Cycling
Horse riding
Rock climbing
Sailing

as SSSIs or nature reserves, or have otherwise been recognised for their local importance. These are illustrated in Map 1. The main report contains a detailed inventory of important nature conservation sites in the Wye Valley.

2. SPORT AND RECREATION

Activities

The Wye provides a unique resource for sport and recreation. It is the foremost salmon fishing river in England and Wales, although in recent years and like several other British rivers its runs of large spring-running fish have seriously declined. It also provides excellent opportunities for coarse fishing. Since the 1970s, it has developed into one of the most important canoeing rivers in Britain, with conditions suitable for most standards and disciplines of the sport. There are well established rowing clubs, based at Hereford, Ross and Monmouth. In more recent years new activities have been introduced, including rafting, water-skiing and jet skiing.

The natural beauty and tranquillity of the Wye also attract a large number of informal visitors. Its banks are well used by walkers and picnickers and are a popular destination for holiday makers and day trippers. Other land based activities include bird watching, cycling and horse riding.

It is essential that good information is available about the level and distribution of recreational activities and about the people visiting the river. Very few data have previously been collected about recreational use. Consequently, the collection of up-to-date information was regarded a high priority. This was undertaken by means of:

- consultation with locally based recreation groups;
- questionnaire interviews with representatives of the main user groups;
- surveys to measure the actual use of the river.

Access and visitor facilities

Public access is crucially important to the value of the Wye as a recreation resource. Such access is obtained primarily through the right of navigation and the rights of way network. Parks and other public amenity sites adjacent to the river can further enhance public enjoyment of the river, especially where support facilities such as picnic areas, car parks and public toilets are provided. These sites can help to influence the overall pattern of recreational use, act as gateways to less well used parts of the river and provide an important facility for those people who lack the knowledge or physical ability to explore further afield.

It is essential to have good information about the quality and distribution of public access and recreation facilities in order to assess whether there is a need for improvements. Details of existing sites have been collated and their distribution is illustrated on Map 2.

3. OWNERSHIP

In common with most of the British countryside, the majority of land bordering the Wye is privately owned. This also applies to the ownership of fishing rights. It will be important to liaise closely with individual land owners and fishery owners when considering future management proposals. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive register of ownership and the identity of some land owners is not known.

Individual owners can have a major influence on the

FIGURE 3

River Wye: distribution of main recreational activities



management of the river, particularly through the development of riverside paths and access sites and, in sections where no established navigation rights exist, through access agreements for the passage of river craft. Management agreements between local authorities and private owners could provide additional opportunities for access on land.

Those areas of land which are owned by public bodies, and certain areas of registered common land, could present important new opportunities for improving access and recreation provision. Information about this land has been collated and is illustrated on Map 3.

4. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST

There is a long history of human settlement in the Wye Valley and the Wye itself has been heavily influenced by man's activities. Until the last century the Wye Valley was a busy industrial centre, and the river was important for commercial navigation. This history has left a legacy of built structures and other remains. These help us to understand and appreciate the river's history and make an important contribution to the overall interest and importance of the Wye.

It is important to be aware of any sites of archaeological or historic interest when considering the future location and management of recreational use. Information about these sites has been collated and is illustrated on Map 4.

The Wye near Builth Wells



Management issues

1. DEMAND FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Key issues

- The difficulty predicting levels of future recreational use and the demands for access and facilities.
- Assessing the level of recreational use the river is able to sustain without causing environmental damage or a significant reduction in the quality of recreational experience it offers.
- Determining the best forms of management to absorb any increase in recreational use and the growth of particular activities, such as canoeing.
- Management is constrained in its ability to influence the level and distribution of recreational use.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Key issues

- Localised physical damage to riparian habitats and vegetation caused by intensive recreational pressure and ill-informed or uncaring behaviour.
- Visual impact caused by croys and other fishery improvements.
- Potential disturbance to wildlife caused by some recreational activities, with particular concern about the impact on nesting birds and spawning salmon.
- Difficulty determining the causes and extent of disturbance and lack of information about its long term ecological significance.
- The need to examine ways of managing recreational uses and access so as to minimise the threat of disturbance or damage.

3. NAVIGATION

Key issues

- Navigation on the Wye is almost entirely unregulated. Unlike some other rivers there is no general speed limit, no control over the number or type of craft and no requirement to licence craft on the Wye. This situation can create problems for other users and for the environment.
- Consideration should be given to whether the bylaw-making powers of the NRA should be exercised and, if so, how they can be used most effectively.
- Information about numbers of craft using the Wye and the identity of boat users is not readily available due to the absence of a registration scheme.
- There are no controls over races, regattas and other competitive events.
- There is a dispute about the right of navigation above Hay-on-Wye.
- The Wye is not actively maintained for the benefit of navigation. Man-made obstructions and the deteriorating physical condition of the navigation channel are causing difficulties for navigation in some areas.

4. ANGLING - NAVIGATION CONFLICTS

Key issues

- It is claimed that boating can disrupt fishing, affect anglers' enjoyment and reduce the value of some fisheries.
- There is no consensus about the precise nature or causes of conflict, or the best ways of reducing it.
- The dispute over navigation above Hay-on-Wye needs to be resolved in a way that is acceptable to all parties concerned.

5. ACCESS AND VISITOR FACILITIES

Key issues

- Public access to the riverbank via the right of way network is very restricted in places. Only 42% of the river's length has any riverside public access.
- Lack of access leads to an over concentration of visitor pressure at a few sites and reduces the scope for influencing the distribution of recreational activity.
- Without proper, planned access at suitable sites, the ability of visitors to enjoy the river is diminished.
- There is a shortage of suitable facilities for canoe access.
- The range and quality of facilities at some public amenity areas is poor.

6. INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

Key issues

- There is a lack of awareness among some river users and general visitors about the available opportunities for access and recreation. Widespread confusion exists about rights of access and navigation.
- Many visitors do not appreciate the special qualities of the Wye and the standard of conduct required in order to protect these qualities.
- There are difficulties in getting information across to the large number of visitors to the Wye, many of whom are not members of any recognised organisation.
- The provision of information and interpretive material about the river is uncoordinated and lacks a clear message.

7. CONDUCT

Key issue

- Many of the conflicts between recreational users, and threats to the environment, are the result of ill-informed or uncaring behaviour. This usually results from ignorance and lack of understanding rather than wilful misconduct. The most effective ways of improving the overall standard of conduct and promoting greater awareness of other interests need to be examined.

8. RESEARCH NEEDS

Key issues

- There has been no systematic monitoring of recreational activity on the Wye in the past. As a result, information about the level and distribution of recreational use is limited. The surveys described in the main report provide only a start.
- It is difficult to draw firm conclusions about the extent of environmental impact arising from sport and recreation because the necessary scientific information is not available.

Proposals

VISION

Future management should be guided by three overall principles.

1. There is an overriding need to **safeguard the special environment of the Wye Valley** from detrimental impact resulting from sport and recreation.
2. Management should attempt to make **appropriate use of the river for the widest possible benefit**. It should seek to achieve a balance between different legitimate interests and reduce conflict between competing interest groups.
3. **Opportunities for access, and the range and quality of recreation facilities**, should be improved so as to enable people to continue to enjoy the river, within the constraints imposed by the need to safeguard the environment and rights of ownership

PROPOSALS

The main report contains proposals which are intended to secure better management of the river and resolve many of the present conflicts. These fall into six categories:

- **Future management**
- **Promoting cooperation and understanding**
- **Information and interpretation**
- **Statutory regulation**
- **Access and visitor facilities**
- **Monitoring and research requirements**

The key proposals are summarised below:

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

1. A steering committee of public agencies should be established to ensure close cooperation in the development and implementation of the management strategy and work programme which should emerge from these proposals after due consultation and determination by the agencies concerned.
2. As the key agency responsible for the river, the NRA should take the initiative in seeking collaboration through the steering committee over future management action.
3. The management strategy should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This will be necessary to measure its effectiveness and to ensure that it remains up to date and relevant to changing circumstances.

PROMOTING COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING

4. A liaison group representing river users and other relevant interests should be established to ensure that these interests are fully consulted and involved in the management of the river and in carrying forward the proposals of the management strategy. This group should work in association with and advise the steering committee.
5. A code of conduct based on that contained in the 'River Wye Handbook' should be adopted and actively promoted in an attempt to encourage responsible conduct and foster a spirit of goodwill and cooperation between river users.
6. The Sports Councils and the canoeing governing bodies should encourage major locally based commercial and institutional canoe users to form themselves into an association, one of its aims being to agree codes of good practice and behaviour. Canoeists should be encouraged to become members of the British Canoe Union or the Welsh Canoeing Association.

INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

7. The overall standard and distribution of information about the river should be improved and a common house style adopted for the whole river.

8. A comprehensive guide for river users should be produced to give advice on conduct, raise awareness of the importance of the river and provide information about recreational opportunities and facilities.
9. A range of notice boards and interpretive panels should be established at strategic points along the river.
10. Tighter control should be exercised over the erection of signposts and notices directed at canoeists and other boat users. The NRA should coordinate the development of a standardised system of navigation notices, in consultation with land owners, fishery owners and boat users.
11. The NRA should continue to coordinate the production of an annual calendar of events for the River Wye and ensure that it is widely available.
12. The NRA should continue to produce guides for canoeists and anglers using the River Wye.

STATUTORY REGULATION

13. The NRA should, where possible, introduce bylaws to regulate recreation on the Wye, in order to ensure its continued enjoyment as a recreational waterway, protect the environment and safeguard other interests. Bylaws should be used to:
 - introduce a registration and identification scheme for all craft using the Wye;
 - introduce speed limits for craft;
 - impose restrictions where necessary so far as is possible on the location and periods over which certain navigation activities take place; including competitive events and high speed water sports;
 - prescribe standards of behaviour for those using the river and its banks to reinforce the voluntary code of conduct.

ACCESS AND VISITOR FACILITIES

14. Opportunities should be sought to improve pedestrian access to stretches of riverbank where public access is currently restricted, and where this will not conflict with other legitimate interests.
15. Opportunities should be examined which would improve the overall standard and provision of recreation sites and visitor facilities associated with the river. Improvements, to promote optimal use of existing sites, should be carried out wherever possible. Additional sites should be developed where there is an established need and a clear opportunity exists. Any new development should be compatible with safeguarding environmental interests.
16. The standard and provision of canoe launching and landing sites should be improved to allow safe access to all navigable parts of the river, where this is consistent with the need to safeguard environmental interests.
17. The provision of additional camp sites and other low key overnight accommodation close to the river should be encouraged in those areas where current provision is inadequate, and where this will not conflict with other legitimate interests.
18. Consideration should be given to improving access to parts of the river for cyclists through the development of predominantly off-road cycleways in the Wye Valley.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

19. The current database of information about the Wye should be maintained and improved.
20. There is a need to assess the impact of various recreational activities on wildlife conservation, including the maintenance of salmon populations.
21. A regular programme of surveys and monitoring is needed to measure changes in the level and distribution of recreational use and changes in the wildlife resource.
22. Further legal studies should be undertaken in an attempt to resolve the uncertainties surrounding the extent of rights of navigation and access.