



**Ymddiriedolaeth  
Genedlaethol  
National Trust**

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3 February 2012

Chris Wright,  
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Dear Chris,

### **Invitation to Outdoor Activity Providers to meet with representatives of the National Trust in Wales**

I wish to extend an invitation to you and the organisations you represent to meet at one of two forth-coming events to consider how Outdoor Activity Providers and the National Trust can work closer together on our open spaces and special places in Wales.

The National Trust is completely committed to helping everyone benefit from access to the great outdoors. It is enshrined in our core purpose, and embedded in our culture. Getting people outdoors and closer to nature is a key strategic priority for our conservation charity. Within this, you are pivotal. We recognise that Outdoor Activity Providers across Wales play an invaluable part in enabling people to enjoy the fantastic coast and countryside that Wales has to offer. It is in all our interests that the experience of each and every person is as enjoyable as possible.

The Trust wishes to work closer with you and fellow ODAPs to help make sure that the quality of the experience is maintained (and, where possible, improved) by ensuring that our places are well managed and the facilities meet the needs of all users. We would wish to explore areas of collaboration where we can work together to promote the benefits of connecting first hand with the natural world by providing exceptional experiences that don't negatively impact on the site.

Developments in specialist equipment and materials, and trends in how people spend their leisure time, have meant that in recent years there has been an expansion of activity in

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BUDDSODDWR Mewn Pobl  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

some areas. There are also occasions when we believe that some activities are potentially damaging, and threatening to our sites or possibly too demanding on what might be a limited space. Concerns have been expressed by the activity sector as well as the Trust, that the special qualities of some sites can be eroded by excess use.

We are keen to consider ways of working that respect the delicate balance of demand and conservation, to maintain the attractiveness of what we offer at all our sites. We believe, that for all of our interests, the best way to achieve this aim is to work closely together developing a strong relationship for the good of our places, and your businesses – for everyone.

Equally, in caring for many special places, the National Trust is legally bound by the liabilities on certain protected areas such as SSSI's (Special Scientific Sites of Interest) SAC's (Special Areas of Conservation) SPA's (Special Protection Areas) and NNR's (National Nature Reserves) and to ensure that everyone can access it fairly.

The National Trust has always sought to manage, where appropriate, activities on its places and spaces. This ranges from voluntary arrangements to more formal agreements where required. This will be on a commercial basis when and where this is justified. In some cases we ask for donations towards our charity. Most organisers are content to support our works on this basis.

By working together we can also agree collaborative ways of working that can prevent the misuse of sites by others, and ensure the safety of all who use them. We would welcome the opportunity to join expertise and tailor a specific way of working that suits everyone and every site.

Building on the existing positive relations that already exist at many properties, from Gower to the Menai Straits, we would like to extend an invitation to you to meet with us at the outdoor conferences being arranged either Llanrwst on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb or Swansea on 7<sup>th</sup> March to further our common interest.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hughes  
General Manager, Pembrokeshire

On behalf of National Trust in Wales