

Sustainability Committee

Sustainability Committee's inquiry into access to inland water in Wales

Dear Mr Bates

What is your interest in the issue of access to inland waterways

Recreational, Bird Watching and Fishing

Are you a member of an organization related to your use of water

Yes, I am a member of Midland Fly Fishers and Wyredale Anglers

Which stretch/es of water do you own/use/manage

The MFF Club was formed in 1935 and has owned nearly four miles of water on the Welsh Dee for fifty three years situated between Glyndyfrdwy and Llangollen.. The club also rents a stretch of about 3 miles above Glasbury on the river Wye. I also make use of other stretches via The Usk & Wye Foundation passport system.

Legal rights

- Are you happy that your legal rights are clear and well defined? *Yes*
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- Can you briefly outline your understanding of your legal rights over the stretch of water/s that you own/use/manage *As with any property either owned or leased one has the right of Quiet Enjoyment. I take exception to an uninvited group of canoeists disturbing the pool I am fishing, exactly as the majority of people would object to a group of Bikers invading their garden.*
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- Would you like to see any changes to your legal rights? *I don't think so.*
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- If yes, what changes would you like to see?
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- Are you aware of any legislation that exists in other countries that could be used in Wales? *No.*

Voluntary agreements

- Do you have any experience of voluntary agreements for access to the stretch of water/s you own/use/manage *I understand the club had agreements in the past*
- If yes, please briefly outline the agreements that exist and your experience of how they operate.
- Would you like to see any changes to the voluntary agreements? *Yes*
- If yes, what changes would you like to see? *They must be **VOLUNTRY** agreements, not enforced.*
- Are you aware of any voluntary arrangements in other countries that could be used in Wales? *I am sure there are*

Observation

The Environment Agency, fishing people and fishing clubs have spent a great deal of money and effort in making improvements to the environment, waterways and purchasing of netting rights in an effort to preserve salmon. .

Why not legislate so that canoeists, like fishing people, are required to be licensed, have a season to protect fish, contribute towards the environment, and pay rent for a stretch of river that they want to use? What is good for one group must be fair for another.

Sincerely, Hugh Waller.