

E.Rimmer

Questions for the access to inland waterways inquiry

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

- Land owneryes,and Riparian owner
- Recreational user:
- Fishing.....yes
- User for waterborne recreation (e.g. canoeing, rowing etc)
- Other(please specify)

Are you a member of an organisation related to your use of water? yes

If yes, which organisation/s?.....Llandovery Angling Association

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

I own a half mile stretch of the river Dulais at Glanathames Taliaris SA19 7BY

I am also a member of Llandovery Angling Association

I am also a volunteer for the Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust

Legal rights

- Are you happy that your legal rights are clear and well defined?No
- Can you briefly outline your understanding of your legal rights over the stretch of water/s that you own/use/manage
 - I understand that permission is required from the owners/Lessees of a river and its access points for access
- Would you like to see any changes to your legal rights?No
- If yes, what changes would you like to see?
- Are you aware of any legislation that existis in other countries that could be used in Wales?
 - Yes,Scotland,where there are specific conditions for access,and rivers are wider and deeper

Voluntary agreements

- Do you have any experience of voluntary agreements for access to the stretch of water/s you own/use/manage No
- 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?
 - If yes, what changes would you like to see?
 - Are you aware of any voluntary arrangements in other countries that could be used in Wales? No

Please can you briefly outline what you think are the key issues for recreational access to inland water in Wales and how you would like to see them addressed.

Assuming that the main purpose of this consultation is to address the petition re access for boating of various kinds on Welsh rivers,key issues in my opinion would be:

Fishing: Most,if not all rivers and access are property owned by individuals or clubs who either pay for or manage using volunteers to establish or improve habitat for wildlife.If legislation was imposed to provide ad hoc access for boating this would seriously affect the habitat being striven for,and would devalue individual and angling associations property,and their income from tourism,which,countrywide is considerable.I am also sure that anglers would then not want to pay the Environment Agency for an annual license when other users would pay nothing and have no responsibility towards the river environment,nor would there be any means of policing any irresponsibility.(The Environment Agency employ the absolute minimum of Bailiffs because they contend that all their controls on rivers(poaching etc) are intelligence driven).This is based on the good relationship between anglers and the Agency.Any imposed legislation could damage this relationship.

Access:

Presumably,most people requiring boating access would not carry their boats from home to water-they would have to use vehicles,trailers etc.With existing fishing interests there is an existing problem with vehicular access.If someone using a boat on the river accesses at one point and then goes downstream,they would then require another vehicle to pick them up at the point where they come out of the river.

Please note:

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data. In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes. If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published, and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.