

Natural Resources Wales brings together the work of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales. Our purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably enhanced, maintained and used, now and in the future.

Newborough recovers after the winter storms

The storms which hit Wales over the winter caused damage all along the coast from Swansea to Holyhead.

They also had a devastating effect at Newborough.

The new board-walk was victim to the storms which caused flooding across Wales. The viewing platform has been removed and stored so that we can reuse the timber to build a new structure. Plans for a new viewing area for people of all abilities are at an early stage. We will be discussing options with the Community Council.

The main toll road down to the car park was closed for several days after the hurricane force winds on the evening of Wednesday 12th February, whilst we concentrated on restoring access to people's houses in forest areas across Wales.

An estimated 1,000 tonnes of fallen timber have been cleared from the roads and trails at Newborough. But the timber within the forest will be left and cleared



Boardwalk has been repaired for the summer season - a longer term solution is being planned

during the next forest thinning operations in the autumn.

The storm will have weakened many more trees, which may fall down in storms over the spring and summer. **Please be careful and report any fallen trees across trails and paths to Natural Resources Wales's Customer Contact Centre.**

Read how nature repairs itself on page 2

Tree felling trial gets underway

Trials are underway to see if we can manage some areas of the forest to benefit Newborough's internationally important sand dune system. Clearing some areas behind the beach will allow the sand dunes to develop and move more naturally. Work started in two areas next to the sea in March (see map) and will continue until 14th April. Work will restart in October to avoid the busy visitor season.

The tree felling, less than one per cent of the forest, will be followed by de-stumping and brush clearing works, which will start in the autumn. We will monitor the effect of the felling on the sand dunes to see if it benefits their condition and boosts wildlife.



Trial felling areas marked in yellow



An estimated 1,000 tonnes of fallen timber have been cleared

Recreation Update

Natural Resources Wales has been working with the horse riding and carriage driving group to develop new routes through the forest, ensuring that all users of the forest can enjoy themselves safely.

A short section of the Coast Path near Llyn Rhos Ddu will be diverted over the coming months to avoid a wet area, which floods each winter.

Nature repairs itself

It is important to remember that the winter storms' apparent devastation at Newborough was a natural process in the evolution of coastal sand dunes - and one which Newborough has witnessed countless times before.

The severe storms stripped the sand from the beaches to the underlying shingle and sheared off up to 30 metres of dune along Traeth Penrhos and Traeth Llanddwyn. The sand cliffs left above the beach reveal a history - shingle bands thrown up in earlier storms can now be seen. The newly created cliffed dunes have been dated to 1995 using the "best before" dates on plastic litter embedded within them!

John Ratcliffe, Natural Resources Wales Protected Sites Team Leader said: "Now, we can watch nature rebuild. The new sand cliffs will collapse and become more stable, and plants will find a foothold again. The sand, stripped from the beach during the storms, is out in the bay - it will gradually return with the tides, waves and wind.

"Seaweed on the strand line will trap sand and the process of creating new sand dunes will start again. And plants such as sea sandwort will germinate in this rich

compost. Later, lyme grass and marram grass will start to grow. New dunes will develop and will again be moved by wind and waves."

The waves undermined the trees as well, and salt-burn will now take its toll on them. Along with the effects of red band needle blight, a disease that hits pine, many trees will be severely stressed. This will also contribute to Newborough's changing landscape over the coming months and years.

Near low water mark, between the main beach entrance and Ynys Llanddwyn patches of clay and post glacial peat have been revealed. Elsewhere on the Welsh coast, remnants of alder, oak, birch, willow and Scots pine can now be seen - evidence of wooded areas before sea levels rose and the sand dunes rolled inland.

Watching nature and natural processes at Newborough is more interesting than ever!

A NOTE OF CAUTION - please take care near sand cliffs. They will collapse naturally but tunnelling into them is highly dangerous.

Many hands help with tree planting

Work has started on planting native broad leaved trees in recently thinned areas of the forest. Children from Ysgol Niwbwrch and Ysgol Bogorgan lent a helping hand, planting 800 hazel trees in the forest, with another 1,200 planted by volunteers from the Red Squirrel Group. This year we will have planted nearly 9,000 native broadleaved trees under the existing pine trees. As these trees grow we will remove more of the larger conifers, avoiding any large clear felling operations and maintaining forest cover.



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A plea to all dog owners

Until July, many birds are nesting on the ground and need a little consideration. Skylark and lapwing are busy in the dunes and ringed plover are camouflaged on shingle along the top of the beach. Your dog may not kill the birds, but by disturbing the adults they allow other predators, such as gulls, to take eggs and chicks when the nest is undefended.

The beach between the main car park and Ynys Llanddwyn is "Blue Flag" and dogs are banned there over the summer. Elsewhere, please have regard to Newborough's natural residents.



Ringed plover

Jobs

Natural Resources Wales will be looking for local people who would like to be the new wardens for the toll barrier as well as seasonal car park wardens. Details of these posts will be available shortly. If you are interested please contact Tony Westley (tony.westley@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk).

Contact us

For all the latest information from Natural Resources Wales contact us on **0300 065 3000** or visit our website www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

