



Newborough

Answering your questions

Here are the answers to specific current issues raised at the Newborough drop-in session, Wednesday 24 February 2016.

Other issues raised with us will be considered in drafting the natural resource plan for Newborough's long-term future.

Question: How will the new gate keep the horses on the warren? i.e The gate at the Penlon car park can easily be left open.

Answer: This gate was installed by Isle of Anglesey County Council. We have expressed similar concerns and are awaiting a response.

Question: Does the money generated from visitor charges go back into this area?

Answer: Yes. It goes into the budget that covers staffing, maintaining visitor facilities and providing information, managing the forest and conservation work.

Question: Where are the MP3 trails? How do we access sensory aspect to signs to help sight or autism related..?

Answer: An accessibility assessment has been done recently to ensure visitors of all abilities are catered for at Newborough. We are waiting for the results of this assessment and recommendations will be implemented if funding is available.

Mp3 trails will be available to download from the free PlaceTales App later this year. This means you can listen to audio files at the numbered posts along the trail. There will be two MP3 trails 'Princes & Pines' and the 'Saint, Sea & Sand trail'. Information about these trails will be on new panels and a booklet being currently produced – should be ready later this year.

Question: How can you better enforce? - Camper Vans overnight in various car parks, Llyn Parc Mawr, Llys Rhosyr, Abermenai, use of chemical toilets then disposed of contents around the periphery of these car parks.

Answer: Visitors are made aware that overnight camping is not permitted at Newborough through signage, our contractor at the parking payment booth and staff. If someone appears to be preparing to park overnight they will be approached by staff or contractors and explained that they cannot do so. If they ignore this advice the police will be informed. Access to Newborough is a shared responsibility between the visitor and NRW staff, however we can't be responsible for all visitor actions and behaviour, some of who may choose to stay overnight despite the information provided and without our knowledge.

Question: Plastic Streamer post markers on Cefni side - can we chop them? Ospreys use area.

Answer: We are not aware of what this refers to but will provide an answer if more information is given.

Question: Can you explain where we are in relation to maintenance of roads and car parks? When will the main road be repaired and also middle car park; Middle car park - condition horrendous; Road down to main car park needs repair; Maintenance of the access road; Potholes are now dangerous also the deep override which damages tyres/rims etc. ; Pot holes down main road to beach.

Answer: We have recently tarmacked the car park entrances and repaired the pot holes. We are now in the process of planning the repair to the edges of the road and adding passing places.

Question: Sand blow - why was the shelter belt along the beach removed? Outside classrooms for schools. Loss of reptiles, orchid beds, insects etc. Warden said on 'coast' marram grass was a protected species how come NRW could remove thousands of metres of marram.

Answer: After years of decline, work has been done to help restore bare sand habitats at Newborough.

Over the last 60 years, Newborough has lost 94% of open, mobile sand dunes as they became over-grown with grass and trees. This destroyed the unique pioneer dune slacks necessary for the specialist and rare wildlife of the dunes to flourish.

We have removed vegetation from some dunes and cut notches in frontal dunes so that the sand can move about naturally in the wind. This will help rare plants and insects such as petalwort, sand wasps, mining bees and rare beetles that have been driven to the brink of extinction in the area.

Naturally mobile sand dunes aren't just good for nature, they provide a more dynamic coastal defence system which can adapt to storms and sea level change. They are also fantastic natural landscapes and great places for everyone to enjoy.

The management undertaken has improved habitat diversity across the site and increased the percentage of bare sand by one percent. Since completing the work a number of rare species have colonised the remobilised areas.

Marram grass was protected by law in Elizabethan times. Today the habitat is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and European Special Area of Conservation. NRW follows a rigorous planning process as part of any management. Thousands of metres of marram and dunes are lost annually to winter storms and effects of rising sea levels/climate change. Remobilisation management permits the natural landward migration of such habitats, protecting the habitat in the mid to long term.

Question: Special care around access routes as sharp shards sticking up on stumps. Is it safe?

Answer: Stumps left after the dune mobilisation project were removed and deposited into the middle of the forest away from public access areas. Leaving stumps, out of harm's way, to decay in the forest provides habitat for wildlife.

Question: Please can we have more dog bins? Litter bin/dog waste bins in Cwnhingar please! Request for dog bins in the Pen Y Cob and Llyn Parc Mawr car parks

Answer: Ynys Môn Council can't collect from any extra dog bins we put in due to lack of funding. We are looking to see if a commercial company can collect before putting in extra dog bins in car parks.

Question: When and how is mowing organised? Does it take account of nature?

Protect Flora - Why on the day Trevor Dines appealed on Radio 4 for more protection of our verges wild flowers where the NRW contractors mowing cut the bluebells, stitchwort and Red Campion leading to the cob car park, also strimming off the meadow saxifrage on the toll booth roundabout, neither impeded views or access; Some areas not to be cut by contractors during grass cutting season. Areas identified were near Pen Y Cob car park and toll booth roundabout as it an area where meadow saxifrage grows.

Answer: We are currently undertaking a review of management activities to protect and enhance the wildlife value of the site. The way mowing is managed will be considered as part of this.

Question: Can you explain our approach to Tree management? Felling unsafe and dead trees; Paths are not cleared after tree felling; Concern about safety of falling or dead trees; Income from felling; Trees fallen in 2014 storms still there.

Answer: All permissive paths and trails including Public Rights of Way have now been cleared of wind blow and a full tree safety survey has identified any dead or dying trees within two tree lengths of any of these paths and trails.

Income from the sale of timber is used to restock and manage the Welsh Government woodland estate for future generations to enjoy.

In relation to the storm damage of 2014. Newborough forest is three years into a five year thinning programme. The thinning areas are identified by a planning team and handed over to our harvesting unit well in advance of work being carried out (up to three years). Once these areas are identified, there is very little chance of change as the areas are put out to a Standing Sales Tender.

The areas referred to in the question are due to be thinned this coming winter, and the windblown trees within that area will be dealt with at the same time.

As in other areas of the forest, wind blow is dealt with at the same time as the thinning operation is carried out.

By the end of the thinning programme the vast majority of wind blow will have been dealt with.

ends

