

Virginia Hawkins,
Clerk to the Sustainability Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff, CF49 1NA

ATT. Mick Bates, Chairman, Sustainability Committee,
18/09/2009

Subject Enquiry into access to inland water in Wales

Dear Mr Bates, Members Sustainability Committee, WAG

I am writing in reply to your invitation to give views on the matter of access to inland water in Wales. I am the licensee of the above Inn located in the Village of Cenarth, our business like many others is supported mainly by tourism generated by Anglers. The river Teifi Valley is an important ecological site supporting varied wildlife including Otters, Red Kites and what I believe is the only self sustaining populations of Salmon and Sea Trout in Wales. As you are probably aware Angling is subject to close seasons to protect spawning migratory fish, and to prevent disturbance of the river bed which is against the law when fish are spawning. Free unfettered access to this ecosystem would spell disaster for the migratory fish populations, wildlife and the management on this water resource. Banks, pathways and adjoining land are maintained at a cost to their respective Landowners, or people such as angling clubs who have purchased Fishing rights or land for their own usage. Our Local Fishing Club the Teifi Trout Association looks after some 23 miles of river, it provides low cost fishing for Tourists, the disabled and youth, and has purchase spawning streams for the sole purpose of protecting them from disturbance.

I could continue for many pages but I will finish up with a few bullet points for which I hope you will take note.

Continued

I believe that any access to inland water in Wales

- *Must be controlled.*
- *Must be with the consent of Land and leaseholders, and must respect their rights.*
- *Must not disturb or interfere with Wildlife or live stock.*
- *Must always Respect other users of the Area.*
- *Must be carried out in a sustainable manner, leaving sensitive areas and some river systems protected and free from disturbance.*
- *Must contribute to cost the maintenance of access, and river, land and bank management.*
- *Must be covered by adequate insurance for public liability*

Possible Solutions

- *That Like Angling Clubs, and some other water users, that interested parties purchase, lease or buy land or rights to pursues their activities.*

I will finish by saying that any unchecked access agreement would result in anarchy. If free access given to any particular group would other users continue to abide by the Trespass laws, rules, pay licence fee's or even bother to purchase land or rights, or even look after it anymore.



John Seel