

Dear Dan,

Open Access Mapping Review

Thank you for your e-mail, because the review is a review rather than a complete re-mapping of Open country and common land, it has been decided that it is unnecessary to inform every individual landowner directly. Unlike the first time the maps were created, we do not have the same level of resources allocated to this project as we had when we created the maps in 2005. The only statutory requirement we have is to put a public notice in the press on both draft maps and provisional map issue dates, however as you will see, we have endeavoured to go way beyond what is required of us in order to safe guard our future working relationship with the public, landowners and the farming unions.

We consulted and worked closely with the Farming Union of Wales (FUW), National Farmers' Union (NFU), Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Open Spaces Society, Ramblers Cymru, and all Local Access Forums' in Wales (LAFs). We posted statutory notices in the Daily Post, Western Mail and Golwg, and circulated a number of press releases in local and national news papers, including GWLAD and the Farmers' Guardian. The mapping review process was also publicised on BBC Radio Cymru/Wales and BBC News Online in November 2012 and August 2013. In addition all press releases were also sent onto the farming unions who then publicised them in their own publications where ever appropriate.

The new draft map was issued on the 16th of July 2012. Anyone with an interest in the land was able at this point to make a representation to have land either added or deleted from the map. We then went through a process of looking closely at those areas of land and making decisions as to whether or not they met the habitat criteria set out under Countryside and Rights of Way Act. There was a 3 months consultation period, during which time we contacted all landowners with land over 0.5 ha which had been added as a result of staff observations received over the ten year period since the first maps were published in 2005, this then gave them an opportunity to look at the draft map and make a representation if they wished to. Where we were unable to identify a landowner, we hand delivered letters to nearby farms, requesting that they contact us in the event that they knew who the landowner was. Once we received all of the representations and once they were verified, we wrote to each of them with a decision. We used a Welsh Government landownership list to locate landowners who had land added to the map, we also informed all farming unions with the information on the decisions so that they could then disseminate it to their members.

Further letters were sent out at the beginning of July 2013, these were generic letters sent to all of those on our mailing list who may have an interest in the land contained on the new revised access maps. These letters were to notify people of the next Provisional Map due out in August.

Another letter was then sent out on the 5th August 2013, just prior to the issue of the Provisional Map, containing a map extract of the area in question and also an explanation as to why the land was either added or removed, the letter also stated clearly the date of the next provisional map issue, with details of where to go to lodge an appeal.

The appeals process is now with the planning Inspectorate. Official appeal forms and information about making an appeal are available on the Planning Portal:

www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/countryside,

and can also be requested from the Planning Inspectorate, who can be telephoned on 029 2082 3866 or via email at wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk.

An appeal can be made by email, or by sending/delivering a completed official appeal form to:

The Planning Inspectorate
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
CARDIFF C10 3NQ

Maps are also available online at <http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/>. You can also inspect the provisional map and the draft map modification statements at the following Natural Resources Wales offices: Maes y Ffynnon in Bangor, Mold, Aberystwyth, Newtown, Abergavenny and St Mellons; the Head Offices of Snowdonia National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Copies of the provisional map can also be inspected online, free of charge, at most public libraries in Wales.

Go to

The farming unions also asked this question regarding contacting all landowners in Wales at the start of this mapping review. When we explained the method we were planning to use, they were happy that this was a sensible approach. We have continued to work closely with them throughout this process. We feel that the process has been thorough, with plenty of opportunity for people to find out more about it if they are interested.

I hope that the members of the Anglesey LAF can see that we have dealt with this review in the best way possible with the resources that we have available to us.

Kind regards

Molly Lovatt