### National Access Forum Wales Access to Water Sub-Group meeting 3 March 2020

#### Attendance

Chair: Dave MacCallum (NRW), Sarah Smith (WG), Steve Rayner (WATO), Chris Mills (Angling Trust), Bernard Griffiths (FUW) Charles de Winton (CLBA), Stephen Marsh-Smith (Afonydd Cymru), Peter Rutherford (Welsh National Parks), Steven Morgan (Sport Wales), Jont Bulbeck (NRW), Mark Stafford-Tolley (WLGA/WROWMWG), Andy Phillips (Angling Cymru), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales)

#### Introduction

The WG Access to Water policy intent document was circulated and explained as being the guiding principles of the sub-group with the following key points being covered.

* Access to water has been removed (Proposal 14) from the wider access reform process and is solely the subject of this sub-group.
* There is a report date for the sub-group to report through NAFW to WG for Deputy Ministers consideration.
* The sub-group is to be stakeholder driven.
* This is a working sub-group rather that a platform for petition.
* Considerations do not include either “do nothing” or “blanket legislation” options.

#### Data

Some questions were raised in reference to the summary data provided by NRW. Dave will circulate the spreadsheets containing the source data for rivers/maps/data confirming the data source. A working group of members agreed to undertake preliminary analysis.

It was agreed that this group will work to identify and confirm:

* What is paddled now/what is not paddled
* Identify tidal limits
* Quantify current facilities available (parking, changing, land access, wash down)
* Identify landowners / riparian owners along selected rivers

It was agreed that tertiary rivers will not be included

It was recognised that some VAA information is currently out of date. Updates to be sent to Dave.

#### General

It was agreed that angling and canoeing will be concentrated on first.

Mark S-T agreed to share the matrix used for off-roading

Pete R agreed to share a report on the Upper Conwy arrangements.

Members agreed the following approach:

* Baseline data
* Understanding current use
* Best practise / good guidance (use the Mawddach report as a starting point) A copy of process matrix to be shared
* Process for determining new access opportunities (agreed it should be on a river by river basis)
* Implementation

#### Future discussions

It was agreed that future considerations should include the following:

* Funding
* Demand of use (This is likely to increase as facilities/knowledge develop – sustainable levels of use)
* Landowner liabilities
* Sustainable Environmental Management
* Commerciality
* Infrastructure and facilities

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to contact Dwr Cymru and to invite their involvement directly.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place during April and will be focused on agreeing the process to be employed