Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs

Update Newsletter

May 2020

Hello

Welcome to the latest newsletter to update you on the progress that has taken place to restore Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs.

In this newsletter we are highlighting some of the unique ecology of the site and how we would like your involvement.

Reservoir Update

It's been a busy few months on site since our last update with a lot of important and essential work having been done.

You may have noticed that some of this work - in terms of the timing and impacts on wildlife - has been directly challenged in recent weeks on social media. We just want to take this opportunity to explain what has been done and why and apologise for any concern this may have caused.

We have been creating a new drainage channel on site recently which is essential to help ensure the reservoirs operate safely in the future and also meet strict legal requirements. As part of this work, we had to manually cut back of areas of dense vegetation through February and March and had to remove some trees to clear a path. All work was supervised by an ecologist to monitor for bats and birds in any trees before being felled.

The new ditch has now been constructed, and as part of the work, a bund has been installed on the northern side to hold back some soil moisture, while various plants were transplanted to a safe area in advance of the work and two larger hibernacula were also formed, using dead wood and capped with soil. The area is now being allowed to regenerate by natural processes, apart from the most open part of the eastern woodland which have been replanted with woodland species to encourage regeneration of woodland ground flora. We will be continuing to monitor the area and working with the ecologist to explore adding other environmental enhancements.

We want to reassure you that this work was planned and carried out with the full approval from the relevant bodies but we do acknowledge that this should have been communicated better so that we could have addressed many of your concerns. We will ensure this informs any future work.

Meanwhile, you may have also noticed that Llanishen Reservoir has begun to fill back up. With the recent dry weather this is taking longer than we initially anticipated, but we expect this to be completed by next year. We are pleased to see the local grass snake population, that over-winters in the reservoir, basking in the early spring sunshine from late-March onwards.

We still have a few more jobs to finish on the site which includes completing the building of a control booth, completing the electrical work in our pumping station, and installing a new access bridge at the northern end near to the allotments. We also need to do some maintenance work on the channels which bring surface water to the reservoirs to help keep them topped up. All in all we think we will have all of these jobs done by the end of June.

Did you know?

The 2019 Fungi Survey recorded a total of 25 species of waxcaps, which means the site still exceeds the SSSI selection criteria for fungi, whilst also recording the highest number of waxcap species since DCWW took over responsibility for the site.

Funding boost to become health and wellbeing hub

In January we received the good news that we'd been successful in a bid for a grant which will help the site become a hub for health & wellbeing.

Recognising the potential the reservoirs offer for promoting biodiversity and wellbeing, Welsh Water partnered with the Reservoir Action Group (RAG), Cardiff Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to apply for a grant under the Welsh Government's 'Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW)' Scheme.

The grant will enable the development of facilities for the public to visit the site, a community engagement programme with volunteering, education and social prescribing strands. This includes creating conservation areas and a learning zone, installing foot paths, interpretation materials and bird

hides to view the variety of wildfowl that reside at the reservoirs. **Richard Cowie, Chairman of the Reservoir Action Group said:** "As a group that battled for over 15 years to save the reservoirs from a housing development, we are delighted to be working in partnership with Welsh Water, Cardiff Council and the University Health Board to ensure that this historically and ecologically important site is enjoyed and protected for generations to come".

Friends Group

We know that current social distancing measures mean we can't all get out and about, but that does not mean we can't still be planning for the future when things are a bit more back to normal.

That's why, over the coming weeks and months, we are hoping to support the formation of a Friends Group to help people get involved with the reservoirs and the site's heritage.

Prior to the site opening to the public, members of the group will have the chance to work with Welsh Water and co-create volunteering events that will help collate information for the new signage and interpretation scheme. Dependent upon social distancing measures, come autumn we hope our new friends will be able to help with conservation management activities to protect and enhance the unique ecology of the site.

Once opened to the public the Friends Group will continue to support Welsh Water to help care for the site; maximising opportunities for visitors to make use of the natural environment in order to benefit their wellbeing, encourage physical activity and volunteering.

If you'd like to find out more then please get in touch. You can register your interest by completing the online form at www.dwrcymru.com/volunteer-visitorattractions

Did you know?

Many birds only visit the UK during autumn and winter.

Lisvane Reservoir is a Site of Special Scientific Interest as it is home to a variety of overwintering waterfowl, including the great crested grebe and the tufted duck.

Share your memories

Do you have a favourite memory of the reservoirs?

Help us capture the rich history and heritage through the eyes of the community and enable us to tell the stories to future visitors of the site.

Before the site re-opens to the public we will be working on the signage and interpretation content – and we would love to incorporate your stories and pictures.

If you have special memories, photos or artefacts that you would like to share we would be delighted to hear from you. Maybe you learnt to sail there, or worked on the site, or maybe you have never visited the reservoirs but have listened to the stories of others who spent time enjoying its tranquil surroundings.

Drop us a line with any stories or information you may have. All information will be held in the strictest of confidence. Material will not be shared further without contacting you for consent.

Please email all information to:
lisvaneandllanishen@dwrcymru.com

Future Plans

We'd like to say thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send in their suggestions about the kind of facilities they'd like to see and enjoy when we open the reservoirs to the public. The ENRaW grant is an important first step in our preparations for opening the site to visitors, while also protecting and enhancing the unique site ecology.

We are still continuing to develop plans to make the most of the recreational opportunities that the reservoirs offer and are hoping to be able to finalise our proposals in the coming months. So if you still haven't let us know what you would like to see and do at the site when it opens, then there is still time… Please drop us a line at lisvaneandllanishen@dwrcymru.com

Cronfeydd Dŵr Llys-faen a Llanisien

Cylchlythyr â'r Newyddion Diweddaraf

Mai 2020

Helo

Croeso i'r cylchlythyr sy'n rhoi'r newyddion diweddaraf am hynt y gwaith o adfer cronfeydd dŵr Llys-faen a Llanisien.

Yn y cylchlythyr hwn, rydym yn sôn am beth o ecoleg unigryw'r safle a sut yr hoffem i chi gymryd rhan.

Newyddion am y Cronfeydd

Bu'n brysur ar y safle yn y misoedd ers y cylchlythyr diwethaf a gwnaed llawer o waith pwysig a hanfodol.

Efallai i chi sylwi bod peth o'r gwaith - o ran ye amseru a'r effeithiau ar fywyd gwyllt - wedi'i herio ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol dros yr wythnosau diwethaf. Hoffem fanteisio ar y cyfle i esbonio beth a wnaed a pham ac i ymddiheuro am unrhyw bryder a achoswyd.

Rydym wedi creu sianel ddraenio newydd ar y safle yn ddiweddar. Mae hon yn hanfodol i helpu i sicrhau bod y cronfeydd yn gweithio'n ddiiogel yn y dyfodol ac yn bodloni gofynion cyfreithiol llym. Fel rhan o'r gwaith, bu'n rhaid i ni dorri llystyfiant trwchus mewn rhai mannau ym misoedd Chwefror a Mawrth a thorri nifer o goed er mwyn clirio llwybr. Cafodd y gwaith ei oruchwylio gan ecolegydd oedd yn chwilio am ystlumod ac adar yn y coed cyn eu cwympo.

Cafodd ffos newydd ei chreu ac, fel rhan o'r gwaith, gosodwyd bwnd ar yr ochr ogleddol i gadw peth lleithder yn y pridd. Hefyd, symudwyd rhai planhigion i dir diogel cyn gwneud y gwaith a ffurfiwyd dwy loches sylweddol gan ddefnyddio pren marw a rhoi pridd drostynt. Mae'r tir yn cael adfywio'n naturiol yn awr, ar wahân i ardal fwyaf agored y coetir dwyreiniol lle'r ailblannwyd rhywogaethau o blanhigion llawr y coetir er mwyn iddynt dyfu yn ôl. Byddwn yn cadw llygad ar yr ardal ac yn cydweithio â'r ecolegydd i ystyried gwella'r amgylchedd mewn ffyrdd eraill.

Gallwn eich sicrhau bod y gwaith wedi'i gynllunio a'i wneud â chaniatâd y cyrff perthnasol ond rydym yn cydnabod y dylem fod wedi cyfathrebu'r neges yn well fel y gallem ateb llawer o'ch pryderon. Byddwn yn sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd yn y dyfodol.

Yn y cyfamser, efallai'ch bod wedi sylwi bod Cronfa Llanisien wedi dechrau llenwi eto. Gan fod y tywydd wedi bod mor sych, mae hyn yn cymryd mwy o amser nag a feddyliwyd yn wreiddiol ond rydym yn disgwyl y bydd wedi'i gwblhau erbyn blwyddyn nesaf. Mae'n dda gweld y boblogaeth o nadroedd y gwair sy'n treulio'r gaeaf yn y gronfa yn torheulo yn haul y gwanwyn o tua diwedd Mawrth ymlaen.

Mae gennym ychydig o waith i'w gwblhau eto ar y safle yn cynnwys gorffen adeiladu bwth rheoli, cwblhau'r gwaith trydanol yn yr orsaf bwmpio a gosod pont fynediad yn y pen gogleddol ger y rhandiroedd. Hefyd, mae angen gwneud gwaith cynnal a chadw ar y sianeli sy'n cludo dŵr wyneb i'r cronfeydd dŵr i gynnal eu lefelau. Rydym yn credu y bydd yr holl waith hyn wedi'i gwblhau erbyn diwedd Mehefin.

A wyddech chi?

Yn Arolwg Ffyngau 2019, cofnodwyd cyfanswm o 25 o rywogaethau o gapiau cwyr. Mae hynny'n dal yn fwy o rywogaethau o ffyngau na'r isafswm ar gyfer dynodi safle'n SoDdGA.Yn ogystal, cofnodwyd y nifer fwyaf o rywogaethau capiau cwyr a welwyd ers i Dŵr Cymru gymryd cyfrifoldeb am y safle.

Croesawu grant i greu hyb iechyd a lles

Ym mis Ionawr clywsom ein bod wedi llwyddo i gael grant i helpu i sefydlu hyb iechyd a lles ar y safle.

O weld potensial y cronfeydd dŵr i hybu bioamrywiaeth a lles, bu Dŵr Cymru'n cydweithio â'r Reservoir Action Group (RAG), Cyngor Caerdydd a Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro i ymgeisio am grant o dan gynllun 'Galluogi Adnoddau Naturiol a Lles' Llywodraeth Cymru.

Gyda'r grant, gellir datblygu cyfleusterau fel y gall y cyhoedd ymweld â'r safle, a rhaglen gymunedol yn cynnwys gwaith gwirfoddoli, addysg a phresgripsiynu cymdeithasol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys creu ardaloedd cadwraeth a pharth addysg, creu llwybrau cerdded, a gosod defnyddiau dehongli a chuddfannau adar i wylio adar y dŵr. **Dywedodd Richard Cowie, Cadeirydd y Reservoir Action Group:** "A ninnau wedi brwydro ers dros 15 mlynedd i achub y cronfeydd rhag datblygiad tai, mae'r grŵp wrth ei fodd o gael cydweithio â

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Cronfeydd Dŵr Llys-faen a Llanisien

Cylchlythyr â’r Newyddion Diweddaraf

Mai 2020

Dŵr Cymru, Cyngor Caerdydd a’r Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol i sicrhau bod y safle hwn sy’n bwysig o safbwynt hanesyddol ac ecolegol yn cael ei fwynhau a’i warchod ar gyfer yr oesoedd a ddêl”.

Grŵp Cyfeillion

Gwyddom fod yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol yn golygu na all pawb ohonom grwydro’r ardal ond fe allwn baratoi ar gyfer amser pan fydd popeth yn fwy normal.

Felly, dros yr wythnosau a’r misoedd nesaf, rydym yn gobeithio helpu i ffurfio Grŵp Cyfeillion fel y gall pobl ymwneud mwy â’r cronfeydd a threftadaeth y safle.

Cyn agor y safle i’r cyhoedd, caiff aelodau’r grŵp gyfle i gydweithio â Dŵr Cymru a chyd-greu digwyddiadau gwirfoddoli gan helpu i gasglu gwybodaeth ar gyfer arwyddion newydd a chynllun dehongli. Yn yr hydref, yn dibynnu ar yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, gobeithio y gall ein ffrindiau newydd helpu â gwaith cadwraeth i warchod a gwella ecoleg unigryw y safle.

Ar ôl agor y safle i’r cyhoedd, bydd y grŵp Cyfeillion yn dal i helpu Dŵr Cymru i ofalu am y safle; gan roi cyfle i ymwelwyr ddefnyddio’r amgylchedd naturiol er eu lles, ac annog ymarfer corff a chyfleoedd i wirfoddoli.

Os hoffech wybod rhagor, rhowch wybod i ni. Gallwch nodi’ch diddordeb trwy lenwi ffurflen ar-lein yn www.dwrcymru.com/gwirfoddoli-atyniadauymwelwyr

A wyddech chi?

Dim ond yn yr hydref a’r gaeaf y mae llawer o adar yn ymweld â Phrydain.

Mae Cronfa Ddŵr Llys-faen yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig gan fod gwahanol adar dŵr yn treulio’r gaeaf yno, yn cynnwys gwyachod mawr copog a hwyaid copog

Rhannwch eich atgofion

Oes gennych chi hoff atgof am y cronfeydd?

Helpwch ni i gyfleu hanes a threftadaeth cyfoethog y safle trwy lygaid y gymuned a’n galluogi i adrodd y straeon wrth ymwelwyr.

Cyn ailagor y safle i’r cyhoedd, byddwn yn gweithio ar yr arwyddion a’r defnyddiau dehongli – a hoffem gynnwys eich straeon a’ch lluniau chi.

Os oes gennych atgofion, lluniau neu arteffactau arbennig yr hoffech eu rhannu, byddem wrth ein bodd yn cael gwybod. Efallai’ch bod wedi dysgu hwylio yma, neu wedi gweithio ar y safle. Efallai na fuoch erioed yn y cronfeydd ond eich bod wedi clywed straeon gan bobl oedd yn mwynhau’r awyrgylch heddychlon yno.

Rhowch wybod i ni os oes gennych straeon neu wybodaeth. Byddwn yn cadw pob gwybodaeth yn hollol gyfrinachol. Ni fyddwn yn rhannu defnyddiau ag eraill heb gysylltu â chi i gael caniatâd.

Gallwch ebostio’ch gwybodaeth i: lisvaneandllanishen@dwrcymru.com

Cynlluniau ar gyfer y Dyfodol

Hoffem ddiolch i bawb sydd wedi anfon awgrymiadau am y math o gyfleusterau yr hoffent eu gweld a’u mwynhau pan agorwn y cronfeydd i’r cyhoedd. Mae'r grant Galluogi Adnoddau Naturiol a Lles yn gam cyntaf pwysig wrth baratoi i agor y safle i ymwelwyr, gan warchod a gwella ecoleg unigryw’r safle ar yr un pryd.

Rydym yn dal i baratoi cynlluniau i fanteisio i’r eithaf ar gyfleoedd hamdden y cronfeydd a gobeithio y bydd y cynlluniau terfynol yn barod ymhen ychydig fisoedd. Felly, os nad ydych wedi rhoi gwybod i ni beth yr hoffech ei weld a’i wneud ar y safle pan fydd yn ailagor, dydi hi ddim yn rhy hwyr… Rhowch wybod i ni trwy ebostio lisvaneandllanishen@dwrcymru.com

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