

Waterfall Country

Update Autumn 2020

Hazel



Hazel (*Corylus avellane*) is a native tree that has been a very important part of the landscape for thousands of years. In the autumn, the hazel nuts provide a valuable food source for those animals fattening up for their winter hibernation as well as for people to get them through lean times. Hazels can be easily coppiced resulting in a plentiful supply of wood that can be used for weaving baskets, building, making hurdles amongst many other uses.

In Celtic mythology, it was the hazelnut that held the wisdom of the world and poetic inspiration. Legend says that a hazelnut dropped into a pool of water and was eaten by salmon. This salmon was in turn eaten by a druid's apprentice who then acquired the magical knowledge to become a powerful druid. It was therefore the tree of choice for magical staffs and wands.

Hazel is found growing under oak woodland and in hedgerows where its lambs tail – like catkins are often the first signs of spring.

A Challenging Summer 2020

This year has been challenging for many reasons with the communities in Waterfall Country going from the peace and quiet of lockdown to the unprecedented visitor numbers once travel restrictions eased. For many it has only been in the last few weeks that visitor numbers have once more returned to 'normal' levels.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority would like to thank all the partners that have worked with them during the difficult times this year. Much support has been given on the ground and remotely from National Resources Wales and National Trust in managing their sites, producing signage and having people on site, Dyfed Powys and South Wales Police put additional resources into the area to patrol and counteract obstructive parking, Powys County Council Highways also had Traffic Enforcement Officers in the area as frequently as possible to issue tickets to illegally parked cars.

The National Park Authority's Warden team have been working flat out during and post lockdown and it was quickly realised that more staff were needed to manage the volume of people. Funds were allocated to employ additional temporary staff to 'Meet and Greet' and to assist the Warden team in managing the trails around the waterfalls.

Though numbers have fallen the National Park Authority and their partners are already planning for the 2021 season. They envisage that numbers could still be high next year if there are still restrictions on travelling abroad.

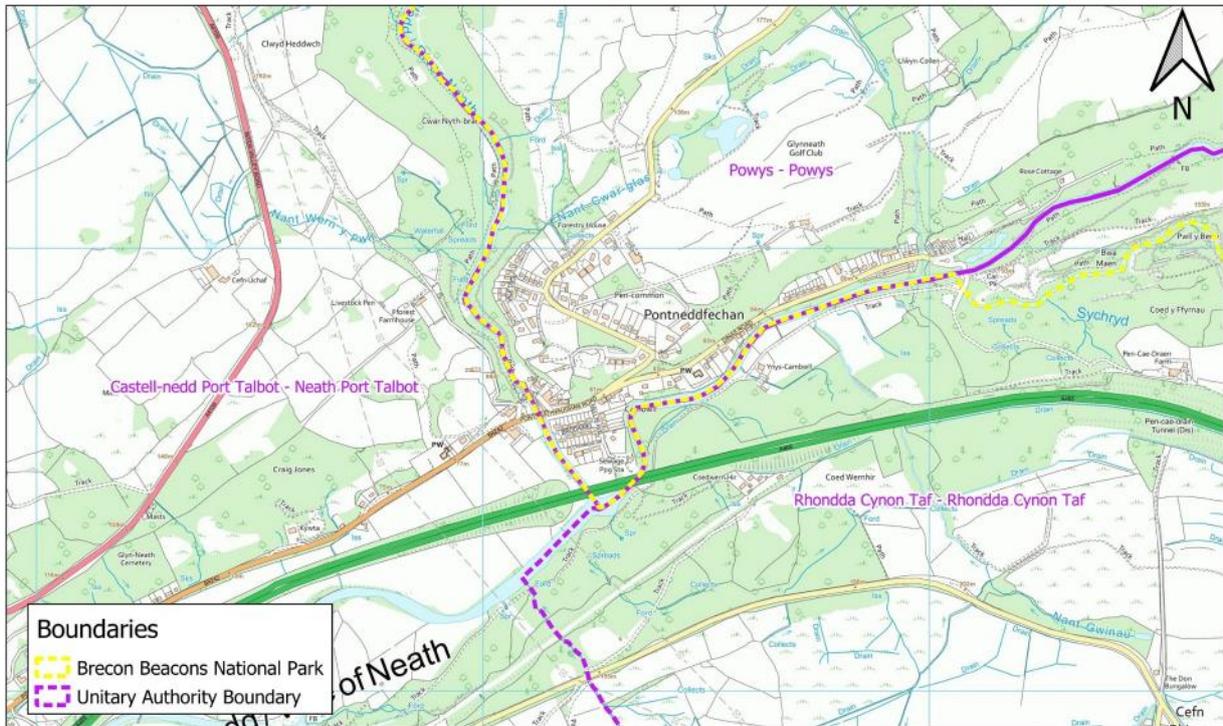
The main focus is to ensure that there are additional overflow car parks available as needed whilst a longer term solution is being investigated.

Thank you for your patience in these challenging times.



Waterfall Country

Update Autumn 2020



Dyddiad / Date: 06/08/2020

Graddfa / Scale:

1:10,000

© Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP

© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2020 Arolwg Ordnans 100019322. Ni chaniateir i chwi gopïo, tan-drywyddeddu, dosbarthu neu werthu y data yma i unrhyw drydydd barti mewn unrhyw ffurf.

© Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP

© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Boundaries and Local Lockdown

At the time of writing (mid-October) all of the boroughs in South Wales are in local lockdown with no information on when these restrictions will be relaxed. For those living in Waterfall Country this has meant a drop in visitors, as much due to these lockdowns as well as the wetter and windy weather. As with our previous Update in August, Pontneddfechan has boundaries of three different counties making that area an interesting one to navigate with these restrictions.

At present the bridge to Craig-y-Ddinas car park is closed due to essential bridge works so access to this area, in RCT, is currently unavailable. For those wanting to travel to the area it is essential to check on the restrictions before travelling <https://gov.wales/local-lockdown>

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has updated their car parking status page to include which counties each of the car parks are in. <https://carpark.beacons-npa.gov.uk/>

Keep safe and keep well.

Waterfall Country

Update Autumn 2020

Wild Flowers

Proactive Pontneddfechan have been out (socially distanced) planting wildflowers seeds to brighten up the roadside verges in the coming year.

They also secured some funding from Pen-y-Cymoedd and Powys County Council for planters and plants which will be going in around the village before the end of the year.

<https://www.facebook.com/ProactivePontneddfechan/>



Meet and Greet Staff



Jamie and Sam, two of the Meet and Greet staff .

They all have good local knowledge and are great with people so have really helped a rather overstretched team of Authority staff. They will be working for the Authority until the end of October. So do please say “hello” if you are out and about and see them.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority invited outdoor activity organisations to apply to be Waterfall Country ‘Meet and Greet’ staff as it became clear that they did not have enough staff on the ground to deal with the number of visitors to the area post lock down.

Staff from Woodlands and Kilvrough Manor Outdoor Education Centres have been working since mid August to support the Warden team in car parking,

traffic management and more recently, maintaining the walking trails.

Halloween Online

Scare yourself safely at 6pm on 31st October by joining in with Proactive Pontneddfechan’s online Halloween event. There will be creepy tales told, virtual scary games (bring your own apples and bucket) and a spooky quiz. Make sure you get the list of what you need before the event and remember to dress up.

This will take place via zoom and a link to the event posted on Facebook.



Waterfall Country

Update Autumn 2020

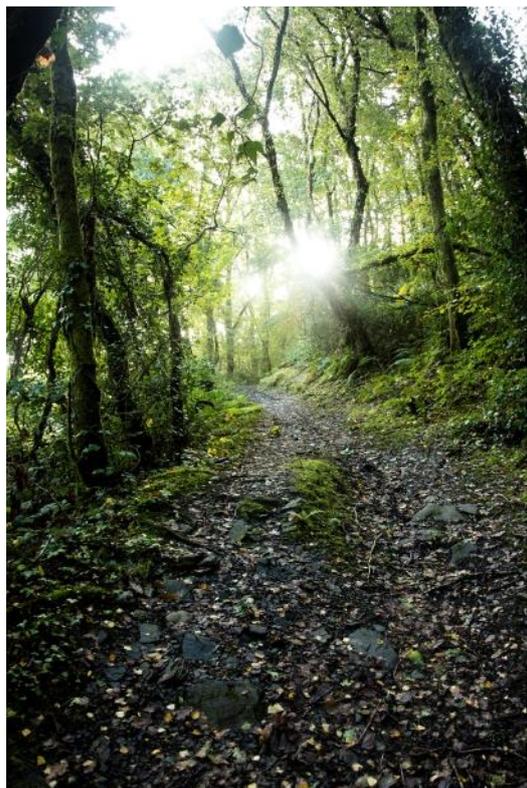
The Staff and the Treasure

Once there was a young boy who decided to go to London to seek his fortune. Before venturing on the long journey, he cut himself a strong hazel staff to aid his walking.

On reaching London and bemused by all the people, he stopped on a bridge over the River Thames to decide what he was going to do. As he stood there he was approached by an old, old man in a long dark cloak. 'Where did you get that staff from?' the man enquired. 'I cut it from the foot of Craig-y-Ddinas in the village where I come from,' the boy replied. 'I know that place well,' said the old man and went on to describe the crag like he had lived there.

'If you want a fortune, that staff will take you to it,' said the old man and described how the young boy should return to the crag and strike it in a certain place three times. Then a passage will open and he should carefully enter and make his way to the chamber within. But caution was needed as there, at the entrance to the chamber hung a huge bell. This bell was not to be touched as within the chamber, on top of limitless treasure, lay Arthur and his Knights sleeping until the country needed them again. Even the slightest touch would sound the bell and rouse the warriors. 'Should you touch the bell,' warned the old man, 'then you must say, "go to sleep, go to sleep, it is not the hour of need"', those words and no other!'

The boy thanked the old man and on returning home he followed the instructions and there, within Craig-y-Ddinas was Arthur, his Knights and treasure. The boy was careful to avoid the bell and came home to become the richest person in the area. But he was greedy and quickly used up a fortune that should have lasted a lifetime, so he returned to the crag with his staff and entered the chamber again. Yet this time he was so eager to carry away more than he should, that one of his stuffed pockets lightly touched the bell which started to toll loudly. Up rose Arthur and his Knights asking if it was the hour of need. The boy had forgotten what to say in his haste and so the Knights fell upon him, stripping him of the treasure and throwing him outside bruised and battered. From that day until this, no-one has been able to find the way to enter the chamber of Arthur and his Knights behind the crag of Craig-y-Ddinas.



If you'd like to be added to the newsletter distribution list please contact: Eleanor Greenwood, Community Development Officer, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
eleanor.flaherty@beacons-npa.gov.uk
07854 997505