

Water sports licence – Expressions of Interest Invited

Lower Lliw reservoir

Lliw Reservoirs is a site of outstanding natural beauty and part of the Valley's Regional Park, one of the special character landscape areas that define Wales. It lies within an area of stunning mountain scenery, just outside Swansea. The reservoirs are surrounded by a mosaic of habitats and support a wide diversity of flora and fauna, many of which are considered rare. The site is already very popular with local people and has a café, toilets and car parking on site.

Welsh Water has a long-term aspiration to develop more sites as hubs for recreation, health and wellbeing, reconnecting people with water and our beautiful environment. Working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, Swansea Council & Canoe Wales, funding has been secured from Welsh Government for a range of visitor improvements at Lliw reservoirs. Informal paths have been upgraded and extended; a pontoon that allows easy access to water for people of all abilities and wash down facilities for biosecurity have been installed.

Welsh Water would now like to open up the opportunity for an interested party to manage water sports activities at Lliw reservoir, for an initial 12-month period.

The opportunity

We are inviting expressions of interest from individuals, clubs or existing watersports organisations to submit proposals to run non-motorised watersports activities at Lower Lliw reservoir

This might include: stand-up paddle boards, canoes, kayaks or other non-motorised water sports suitable for launching from the designated slipway

Location

The licence includes use of designated areas of the Lower Lliw reservoir, slipway, pontoon & washdown facilities at the location as indicated in the plan

Timeframe

As an initial trial period, the licence will be granted for one year. The timetable is as follows:

- Expressions of interest invited from Monday 15 February 2021.
- Questions are permitted from Wednesday 17 February 2021, email: estates@dwrcymru.com, with: “[your company name] + Lower Lliw Water sports licence application” in the subject line
- The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Monday 1 March 2021.
- A panel will meet to review the applications by Wednesday 3 March 2021.
- Successful applicants will be contacted by Friday 5 March 2021.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted during w/c 8 March 2021.
- Pending completion of the approval process, an operating licence could be in place by 1st April 2021 (subject to COVID-19 Government Guidance)

Hours of operation

To be confirmed, but the hire of equipment to members of the public is to be restricted to the hours of 9am and 8pm (or dusk, whichever is the earliest), to ensure that all water users leave the reservoir in daylight hours.

Conditions

DCWW is not obligated to accept or be bound by any of the offers received. It reserves the right to vary the terms and conditions of the opportunity being marketed.

The successful licence-holder will be required to:

- work closely with the café, angling society, and stakeholders at the licensed location demonstrating consideration for local residents and all other users
- enable access for permit holders and help manage unauthorised access
- comply with water safety advice from DCWW & National Sports Governing bodies
- demonstrate awareness of local weather conditions
- demonstrate awareness of the importance of biosecurity and water quality
- demonstrate awareness of potential hazards associated with operational reservoirs

Requirements

Please apply by setting out your business proposal. Include any specific benefits you feel your business will bring to Lliw reservoirs.

As part of your application, you must also provide evidence of the following:

- public liability insurance cover of at least £10m
- proof of relevant water sports teaching qualifications and/or membership
- standard operating procedures, including:
 - number of staff members on site during operating hours
 - a risk assessment of the proposed water sports operating area, with reference to the site plan showing launch point, water course and safety zones
 - process for ensuring a safe channel for entry to and exit from the water – including the placement and removal of marker buoys if required.
 - details of daily set up/clear down procedures, including equipment unloading and loading
 - first aid / life-saving qualifications
 - emergency action plan – including rescue procedures and safety equipment
 - child protection procedures, including DBS checks
 - a COVID-19 risk assessment

How to apply

Submit your proposal and all supporting documents by email: estates@dwrcymru.com, with: “[your company name] + Lower Lliw Water sports licence application” in the subject line