

**This document is intended to share the John Muir Trust's commitment to the Welsh language.**

## Background

The Welsh language is recognised as part of Welsh identity and culture. In 1993, the Welsh Parliament enshrined the use and promotion of the Welsh language through the Welsh Language Act 1993. This Act established a Board, tasked with promoting the use of the Welsh language and helping public bodies to prepare schemes that placed Welsh on equal parity with English. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 gave the Welsh language official status in Wales (making it the only language in the UK that is, by law, official). Welsh-medium schools teach all subjects through the medium of Welsh.<sup>1</sup> For English-speaking schools, Welsh is taught up to the age of 16.

## Relevance to the Trust

Our work connecting people to wild places takes on a new relevance when we are able to communicate with them using their first language. Given that the Welsh language has undergone a significant revival, using and promoting Welsh helps us to connect a growing number of Welsh speakers to wild places.<sup>2</sup> With the biggest concentration of Welsh speakers in the north west of the country, in and around Snowdonia National Park, there is also geographical overlap between our work with this National Park and Welsh speaking communities.<sup>3</sup>

## Trust position

In our work connecting people to wild places, we can have a role in supporting the use and promotion of the Welsh language.

## Increasing the use of Welsh

- 1. John Muir Award:** we have translated the Award's landing page into Welsh<sup>4</sup>, the John Muir Award Record Book is available in Welsh<sup>5</sup>, and certificates are printed in Welsh. These resources, plus a Welsh speaking John Muir Award manager means a John Muir Award participant can complete their Award from start to finish entirely in Welsh.
- 2. Content (online and print):** we use Welsh in journal articles<sup>6</sup> where appropriate, on our Award website pages, and in some social media content. If envisaging a land purchase in Wales, we would communicate in Welsh with our members, supporters and local communities (a precedent for this was set during the Carrag-y-Saeth land purchase attempt, 2014-2016).
- 3. Award training and advice:** with funding from Natural Resources Wales we were able to employ a John Muir Award Wales Inclusion & Welsh Language Manager in late 2018. As a native Welsh speaker, the person who filled this post has been able to speak in Welsh to John Muir Award participants and deliver training and support in Welsh to Award group leaders.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 2019, there are 455 Welsh-medium schools in Wales, compared to 1,494 English primary and secondary schools (read more [here](#)).

<sup>2</sup> The Annual Population Survey 2019 from the Welsh Government reports that 28.4% (857,600) of people aged three and over are able to speak Welsh. The data shows that these figures have been gradually increasing each year since 2010, where 25.2% (731,000) people were able to speak Welsh (read more [here](#)).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/looking-after/state-of-the-park/cultural-identity/welsh-language-skills-and-profile>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/cymraeg>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/assets/000/003/743/WL\\_Record\\_Book\\_Final\\_original.pdf?1558366452](https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/assets/000/003/743/WL_Record_Book_Final_original.pdf?1558366452)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/366-journal-58-spring-2015>

## Promoting the Welsh language

- 1. Offering John Muir Awards in Welsh:** this helps individuals to develop Welsh language vocabulary and learn about wild places through the medium of Welsh.<sup>7</sup>
- 2. Partnerships with organisations that promote Welsh language use:** in 2013, we collaborated with 'Mission:Explore' to create a unique collection of 20 John Muir-related mission activities and translated them into free online Welsh resources<sup>8</sup> with support from Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Cyfieithu Cymunedol to inspire Welsh speakers to follow in the footsteps of John Muir. Since then, our partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru has continued.
- 3. John Muir Award teaching resources:** the John Muir Award Record Book is available in Welsh and is designed to assist learners, as well as teachers and leaders delivering the Award in Welsh.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/cymraeg>

<sup>8</sup>[https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/assets/000/001/092/Mission\\_Explore\\_John\\_Muir\\_Cymraeg\\_original\\_original.pdf?1610707020](https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/assets/000/001/092/Mission_Explore_John_Muir_Cymraeg_original_original.pdf?1610707020)