

Rachel Knight

His Majesty's Assistant Coroner

South Wales Central Coroners Court

[REDACTED]

06 February 2023

Dear Madam,

Response to Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths

Inquest touching on the death of Akeem Jevaughn RHODEN

We write with reference to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 13 December 2022 which was issued by HM Coroner following the inquest into the death of Mr Akeem Jevaughn Rhoden ("the Regulation 28 Report").

We are responding to the Regulation 28 Report on behalf of Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot Council. On behalf of all of the aforementioned organisations, may we express our deepest condolences to Mr Rhoden's family.

We set out below the joint response of Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Powys County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot Council, to the concerns that have been raised by HM Coroner as set out in the Regulation 28 Report:

1. Independent Expert

1.1. Natural Resources Wales is in the process of commissioning a report from an independent expert concerning visitor safety management to include signage in Waterfall Country. The outcome of this process will be shared with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Powys County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot Council.

1.2. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will review the independent report and reposition its signage as reasonably required having considered the recommendations of the report.

2. Erection of Signage

Pending the report of the independent expert, semi-permanent signs are being erected at the following locations in Waterfall Country. NRW will mark their signs as marked on the plan (numbers 1-8) and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (numbers 9-16) **Enclosure 1** and set out below:

- Location: 1. Sgwd Clun Gwyn Uchaf;
- Location: 2. Sgwd Pannwr;
- Location: 3. Sgwd yr Eira north;
- Location: 4. Sgwd yr Eira south;
- Location: 5. Sychryd;
- Location: 6. Dinas access to Mellte;
- Location: 7. Pont Melin Fach
- Location: 8. Junction pool below Sgwd Gwladys.
- Location: 9. Cwmporth Carpark SN 92839 12383
- Location: 10. Clyn Gwyn footpath SN 92107 10714
- Location: 11. PNF Old School footpath SN89962 08517
- Location: 12. Gunpowder Works lower bridge SN91548 08227
- Location: 13. Gunpowder Works upper bridge SN91895 08407
- Location: 14. Penderyn Tor y Foel Footpath / permissive route SN 93837 09205
- Location: 15. Scwd Pannwr NPA side SN92280 10299
- Location: 16. Lower Clyn Gwyn NPA side SN 92382 10644

When the erection of the semi-permanent signs has been completed, photographs will be taken by NRW and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority respectively and sent to HM Coroner.

3. Design of the Signs

The signs that are being erected in Waterfall Country, have been designed with reference to the Visitor Safety Group Communicating Safety [Guidance](#) an extract of which is set out below:



We attach at **Enclosure 2:**

- 3.1 Two illustrations of the signs that are being erected by Natural Resources Wales and Brecon Beacons National Park in Waterfall Country showing their respective logos; and
- 3.2 An illustration of the signs that are being erected by the local authorities in Waterfall Country which do not have a logo.

We trust this joint response provides assurance to both HM Coroner and Mr Rhoden's family that action is being taken by Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Powys County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot Council to

address HM Coroner's concerns. The safety of visitors to Waterfall Country is of the utmost importance to all of the aforementioned organisations and we remain committed to working collaboratively including through ongoing participation in the Waterfall Area Safety Advisory Group.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

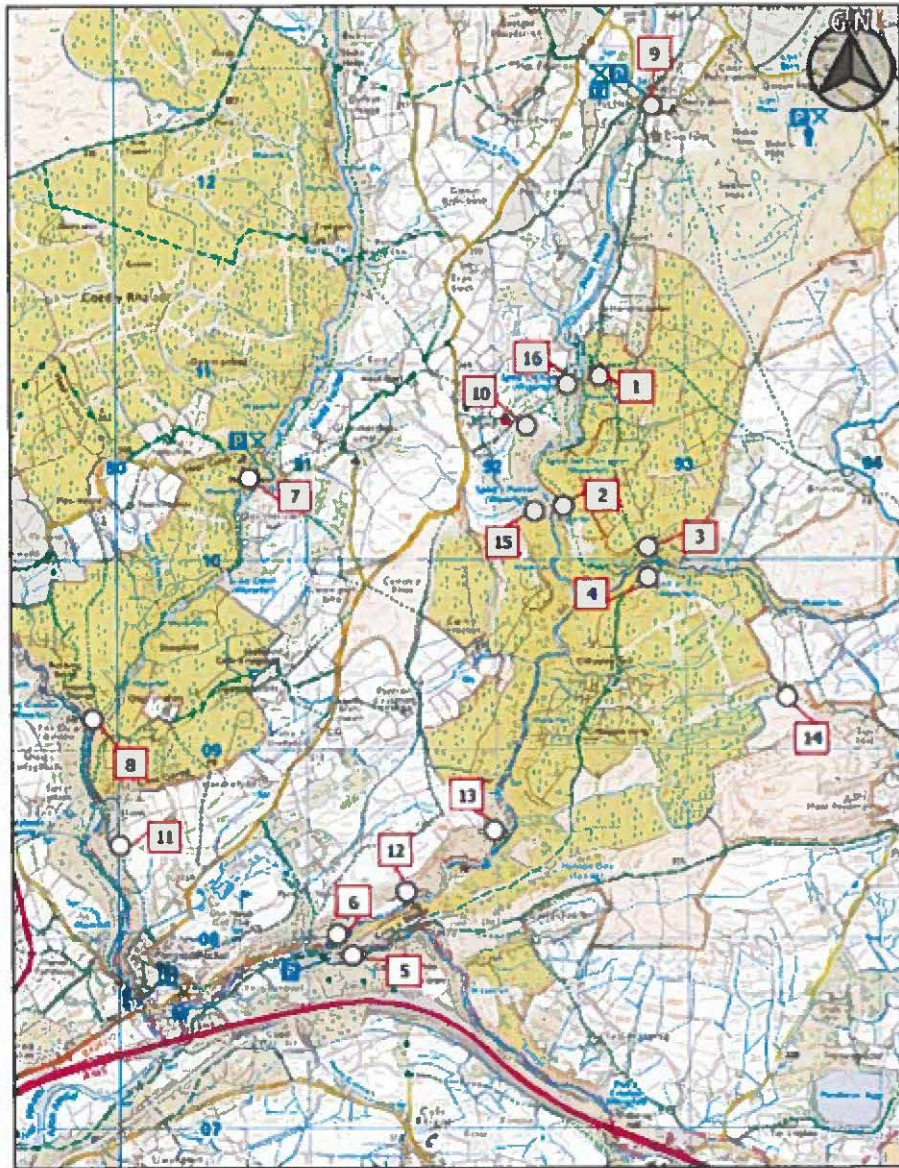
Chief Executive

Natural Resources Wales

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Chief Executive.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Enclosure 1



Dyddiad / Date: 07/02/2013
 Graddfa / Scale: 1:25,000

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Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales



PERYGL!

Peidiwch â dod yn ddioddefwr nesaf

Mae marwolaethau ac anafiadau difrifol wedi digwydd yma oherwydd:

- Dŵr pwerus, cerhyntau cryf a chreigiau llithrig
- Peryglon cudd o dan y dŵr
- Peidiwch â dringo neu neldio oddi ar greigiau neu raeadrau
- Defnyddiwch ofal eithafol mewn dŵr ac o'i gwmpas

Mewn argyfwng, ffoniwch 999 a gofyn am yr Heddlu, yna Achub Mynydd.

DANGER!

Don't become the next victim

Deaths and serious injuries have happened here due to:

- Powerful water, strong currents and slippery rocks
- Hidden hazards under the water
- Do not climb or jump off rocks or waterfalls
- Use extreme caution in and around water

In an emergency, call 999 and ask for Police, then Mountain Rescue.



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