

A TRAIL IN THE MAKING



The Heart of Wales Line Trail

PRESS PACK

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AN INNOVATIVE RAILWAY-BASED WALKING TRAIL

The Heart of Wales Line runs 129 miles between Shrewsbury and Swansea taking passengers through some wonderful countryside and relatively remote areas of the Shropshire Hills, Powys, Carmarthenshire and Swansea. Arriva Trains Wales run a limited but regular service along the line and this service has long been popular with walkers, not only providing access to great walking country but also the opportunity to walk linear routes between rail stations.

In 2016 a feasibility study, funded by Arriva Trains Wales, with Heart of Wales Line Traveller's Association and DevCo, was carried out for a unique, long distance walking route, weaving between stations along the Heart of Wales Line. The report was produced by Alison Caffyn and Professor Les Lumsdon with voluntary help from local walking groups. It outlines the plan for a new trail between Craven Arms and Llanelli.

Our *Trail in the Making* will start in the old railway town of Craven Arms. It will pass through a diverse range of landscapes from pastoral farming through to remote uplands, and from mixed broadleaved woodlands to the estuarial saltmarshes of the Loughor Valley en-route to the Millennium Coastal Park. The trail is designed to make use of existing public rights of way and to intersect with some excellent and established walks including the Shropshire Way, Offa's Dyke Path and Beacons Way. It will be suitable for people looking for a long distance challenge, but equally for those who wish to walk the trail in sections, using the train to access day or weekend walks and using local shops, cafes, pubs and overnight accommodation along the way.



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A TRAIL IN THE MAKING?

As part of our funding plan, we are launching a crowd funding campaign. We are asking individuals and organisations to help us finance and install good quality infrastructure for the trail and make sure that it is properly sign posted, maintained and promoted. Your contributions will help to pay for way markers, stiles, foot bridges and finger posts; as well as contributing to longer term upkeep; maintaining good relations with neighbours; marketing the trail and promotion of countryside awareness. You can easily donate to the trail via Local Giving.com <https://localgiving.org/charity/the-heart-of-wales-line-development-company/>

Every donation will help to establish this exciting *Trail in the Making* , bringing new benefits to the area and making sure that all kinds of people have access to and can enjoy the beauty of the countryside.



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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT A TRAIL IN THE MAKING

"We of the 'Llandovery Walkers are Welcome Group' are very happy to be part of this exciting and very worthwhile project, and to have been able to help with the planning of three legs of the route, i.e. Llangadog - Llandovery, Llandovery - Cynghordy, and Cynghordy - Llanwrtyd Wells" Llandovery Walkers are Welcome.

'The committee is very positive about the idea for a Heart of Wales Railway long-distance path and we are only too happy to provide whatever support we can for the concept. We are also looking forward to the time when it becomes a reality.' Llanelli Ramblers

'I consider this to be an excellent project encouraging tourism into an area that will benefit hugely, making the most of assets that are already in place.' Shropshire Rights of Way Team



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"You have our full support with this imaginative and positive project and we are happy to work in Partnership with you to deliver the trails in Shropshire." Shropshire Council.

"I wish to inform you that Pontarddulais Town Council is supportive of the proposed Heart of Wales Walking Trail. Please keep us informed of further developments." Pontarddulais Town Council

"We would like to attract greater numbers to the line to enjoy the appeal of a rail based ramble and to experience the outdoor beauty of this part of Wales and Shropshire. The Heart of Wales Line, as one of the most scenic in Britain, presents the ideal opportunity to realise this concept. It will give a particular appeal to walkers – traversing the Heart of Wales and using the train regularly to access one, two or three day segments of the walk." Paul Salveson, Arriva.

"I support the principle and welcome the intersection with Beacons Way." Brecon Beacons National Park Authority



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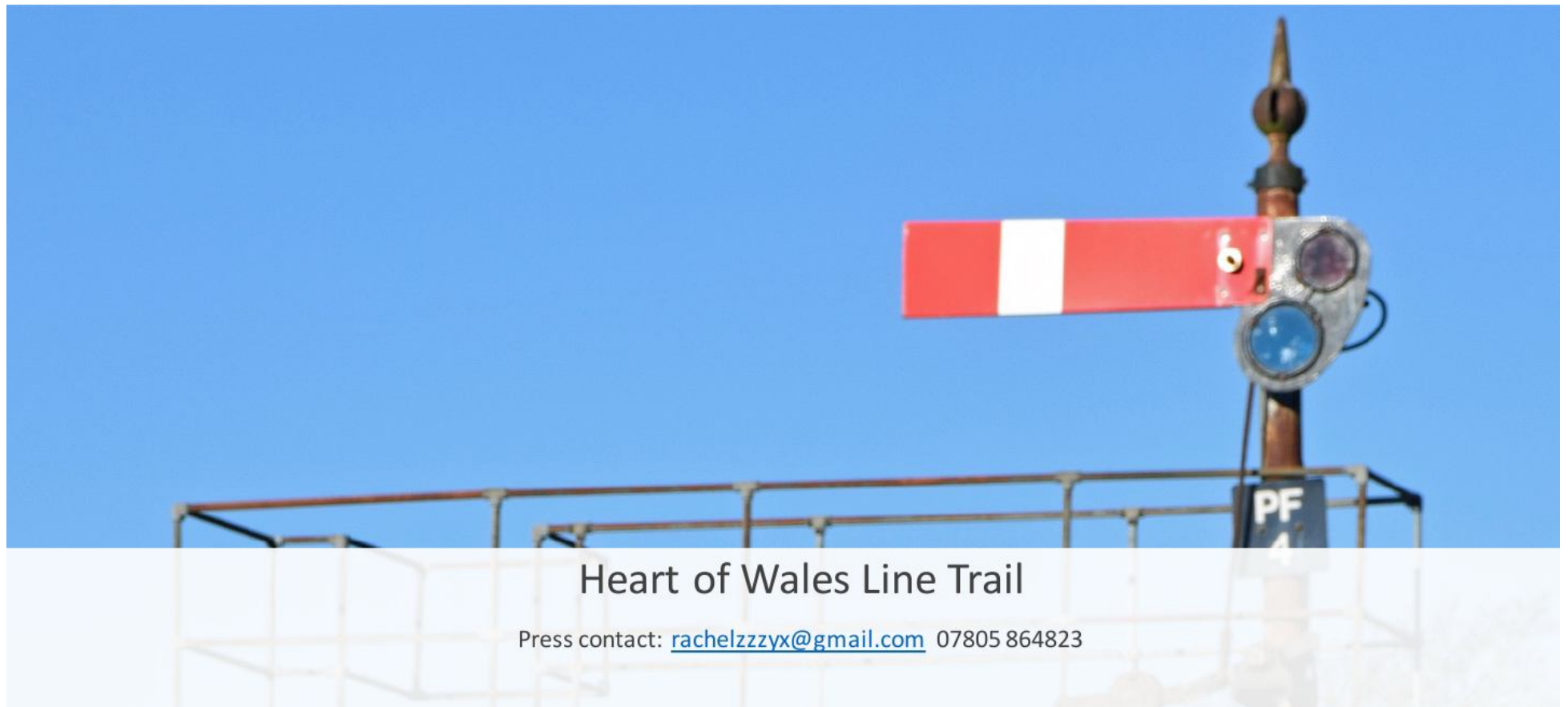
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STOP PRESS

Thanks to the support of Shropshire Council **and Swansea Council**, work will commence on the following sections of the Trail in early 2017:

Craven Arms to Knighton, following the Shropshire Way to the higher ground of Hopesay Common and heading towards the market town of Knighton via the forested hills of Hopton and Bucknell.

Graig Fawr via St Illtyd's Walk– and into Loughor Valley, joining the Wales Coastal Path at Bynea, and following the seashore through to Llanelli, passing by the National Wetland Centre.



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Thank you to all the people and organisations who are supporting the trail. With special thanks to our main sponsors Arriva Trains Wales and also the Heart of Wales Line Traveller's Association and Heart of Wales Line Development Co.

All photographs shown are available for publication in high resolution
Photo credits: Visit Wales, Stephen Miles, Les Lumsdon



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