



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## LAUNCH OF THE POWYS SECTION

28TH MARCH 2019



PRESS PACK  
Contact Rachel Francis  
[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.heart-of-wales.co.uk](http://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk)

Featured in  
The Guardian's  
Best Travel  
Discoveries of  
2018

# THE HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## LAUNCH OF THE POWYS SECTION

28TH MARCH 2019

**11.00 a.m.** Attendees begin to assemble at:

The Media Resource Centre Oxford Rd, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AH

Light refreshments will be served

**11.39** Train from north arrives

**11.45** Attendees at Media Resource Centre walk to station

**11.52** Train from south arrives

**12.15** Official Launch of Powys section. Llandrindod Railway Station

**12.45** A Choice of Guided Walks leave from the station.

WALKERS PLEASE NOTE: ALL WALKS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE. DETAILS TO FOLLOW

## About The Heart of Wales Line

The Heart of Wales line runs through dramatic scenery of mountains, forests, wild rivers, green meadows and pretty towns and villages across Shropshire, Powys, Carmarthenshire and the City and County of Swansea. There is a limited but regular train service along the line operated by Transport for Wales.

The train service has long been popular with walkers, providing access to great walking country. A long distance walking trail, accessible by train, with sections designed to take you from one station to the next, was our goal. Thanks to fantastic local support and dedicated volunteers, the idea has become a reality and the trail is ready for you to explore. Trains along the Heart of Wales Line call at all stations linked to the trail. This will enable walkers of all abilities to catch a train to any segment of the trail and walk from there to the next station along way-marked footpaths. Timetables are available at [www.heart-of-wales.co.uk](http://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk).

Hop on a train and enjoy great walks suitable for all kinds of people.



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## Catch the Train and Walk the Trail

From the 28th March 2019 you will be able to catch the train and walk the Heart of Wales Line Trail, from one station to the next, across the beautiful county of Powys. The Powys section completes the entire long distance trail, 141 miles in total, all the way from Craven Arms in Shropshire to Llanelli at the southern edge of Carmarthenshire and just a couple of train stops from Swansea.

This is a long section and has taken a lot of hard work to get finished. The Trail Steering Group would like to say a big thank you to the Rights of Way Team at Powys County Council. Thanks as well to Lower Wye Valley Ramblers, LDWA and Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund who have provided the extra funds that allowed us to keep most of the trail off road. These extra funds have helped cover the maintenance on existing rights of way. A team of 'Trail Champions' from local walking groups are already lining up to help keep an eye on the trail for the future.



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## QUOTES

Cllr Aled Davies, Deputy Leader of Powys County Council and Cabinet Member for Countryside Services, said:

*"This project is providing real benefits both for the volunteers involved in creating the route on the ground and, once fully opened, for the people of Powys and the visitors it will attract to the area.*

*"It passes through such a diverse and stunning cross section of the county with hidden gems around every corner, it won't fail to impress."*

The Guardian said :

*"A few miles south of Shrewsbury there's a little town called Craven Arms and from there a single-track 121-mile railway runs south-west through some of Wales's most magnificent landscapes.*

*It has been operating since 1868 but recently someone had the bright idea of an accompanying long-distance footpath that would loosely follow the line, coinciding at the stations, many of them request halts. Most of the path is now open (final completion due March 2019), allowing walkers to hop on and off the train, building day walks or longer, with nights in pubs or B&Bs in towns such as Llandrindod Wells and Llandovery."*

Rachel Francis, Manager of the Heart of Wales Line Development Co said:

*The Trail is attracting national media interest and rightly so. It's a brilliant idea and the team working on it have been an inspiration. People of all abilities will be able to enjoy this trail and the wonderful and ever changing countryside that it passes through. The new trail provides a long distance challenge for the boldest walkers, a great day out or half day in open country for visitors, a chance for day trippers to get away from it all and get fit, and better access (by rail) for walkers and would-be walkers of all abilities. Rail and Trail is a winning combination."*

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# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## MEDIA COVERAGE



The Telegraph



The Mirror



The Guardian



The Shropshire Star

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# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## SHROPSHIRE



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Contact Rachel Francis  
[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## POWYS



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Contact Rachel Francis  
[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## CARMARTHENSHIRE



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Contact Rachel Francis  
[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## SWANSEA



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Contact Rachel Francis  
[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## LOUGHOR ESTUARY



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[rachelzzzyx@gmail.com](mailto:rachelzzzyx@gmail.com)



# HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

## THANK YOU

We couldn't have got this far without the support of local walking groups, the rail industry, community rail and rail user groups, councils, Les, Mike, John, John, Paul, Robin and Rachel, a lot of determination, a pinch of good luck, hours of hard work outside in all weathers, numerous planning meetings, a bit of financial head scratching, enthusiasm, focus and a wide range of sponsors.

THANK YOU - To all the people and organisations supporting The Heart of Wales Line Trail: Transport for Wales, Network Rail, The Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association, Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust, The Long Distance Walkers Association, Rail Ramblers, Lower Wye Valley Ramblers, Walkers are Welcome (Llandovery), Lampeter and Llanelli Ramblers, Repta, Garreg Lwyd Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Rights of Way Teams In Shropshire, Powys, Carmarthenshire, Brecon Beacons National Park and the City and County of Swansea, Arriva Trains Wales, and all the many groups, local councils, individuals and families who have donated to help fund the trail. The Heart of Wales Line Steering Group is a sub committee of the Heart of Wales Line Development Company, which is the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) for the line.



Listed in The Guardian as one of the best travel discoveries of 2018

A compact guidebook for the Heart of Wales Line Trail from Kittiwake Books is available in Spring 2019 and will be launched at this event

You can download trail route descriptions and plan your train journey from [www.heart-of-wales.co.uk](http://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk)

Lots of info about the trail at [www.heartofwaleslinetrail.co.uk](http://www.heartofwaleslinetrail.co.uk)

