

## Cardiff's Iconic Reservoirs Welcome Back Open Water Swimming & Stand-Up Paddleboard Hire

4 September 2023

Lisvane & Llanishen Reservoirs have experienced a fantastic first month of opening with thousands of visitors enjoying the visitor centre, walks and watersports on offer.

Following an incident of suspected swimmers itch, some of the water activities were suspended in July. This was a huge disappointment to many visitors and Welsh Water would like to thank everyone for bearing with them over the past month whilst an investigation has taken place.

Test results have confirmed that the water quality at Llanishen Reservoir continues to be excellent in terms of inland bathing water bacterial standards, and with no blue green algae or blooms present. However as no 'off the shelf' test is available for the microscopic worm that causes swimmer's itch, partners at the Environment Centre Wales at Bangor University have been developing one for Welsh Water.

Prof Davey Jones, Bangor University said "We are pleased to be working together with Welsh Water to develop a new sentinel system to allow early detection of the organism that causes swimmers' itch. Cases of swimmer's itch appear to be increasing across Europe, so this is an emerging problem."

Bangor University has advised that a microscopic worm has been found that may cause swimmer's itch. These worms are naturally occurring and more prevalent during summer months; as water temperatures drop, the risks are significantly reduced.

Jack Bailey, Activity Manager explains 'We have taken advice from Public Health Wales and others; and are closely following their guidance. As we reopen for swimming and SUP hire, full wetsuits and swim caps will be required as a precautionary measure. The swim course & launch point has also been moved away from the shallows and into colder, deeper water to reduce any risk further.'

Open water swimming and stand-up paddle board hire sessions will resume on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Sessions are available to pre book online, along with a host of other water activities including kayaking, sailing, and canoeing. For those looking to have a go at a watersports, 90 minute taster sessions are available. <https://lisvane-llanishen.com/water-adventures/>.