



App-y days in the woods of Wales

WOODLAND visitors now have a world of outdoor fun at their fingertips, after Forestry Commission Wales produced a mobile phone app giving the low-down on hundreds of miles of forest trails.

The new Cymru ForestXplorer Wales smartphone app uses the latest technology to offer up-to-date information on over 200 recreation trails in Welsh Government woodlands all over Wales.

The app, which is fully bilingual, can be downloaded free onto Apple iPhones and iPads and Google Android devices, enabling people to maximise their enjoyment from a woodland visit.

The app contains trail maps, aerial photographs and directions for miles of walks, mountain bike trails and horseriding routes, with no fewer than 92 places from where to start off a great day out in the woods.

Forestry Commission Wales visitor experience manager Steven Richards-Price, who devised the app, said he hoped it would persuade even more people to discover the benefits of the great outdoors.

"I wanted to develop an app to showcase all the things you can do and places you can go in the forests of Wales," he said.

"There are plenty of search

options to help visitors find the information they're looking for, such as their nearest location or they can filter their search by their chosen activity.

"Over one million visits are made to the woodlands of Wales every year and I hope the new app will attract even more people to take some exercise in our wonderful woodlands, or just enjoy the fresh air."

As well as being an invaluable aid to help visitors get the most out of the forest trails, the app can also provide up-to-date information such as advance warnings of any temporary closures.

It includes links to the [Forestry Commission Wales website](#), where visitors can find more in-depth information on recreation facilities, along with other fascinating facts about the woodlands of Wales.

The app was developed with the help of [getunik.com](#) and [Audiotours](#) and took six months to complete. It's available on Google Play for Android devices and the Appstore for Apple devices, and a demonstration of what it offers can be viewed on <http://vimeo.com/39626002>

Steven added: "The app is a handy, on-the-move guide to the wide range of exciting opportunities for recreation and enjoyment which are available free in our woodlands to everybody."



