

## **DRAFT Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

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## **Executive Board Member Foreword**

The County of Carmarthenshire has an extensive and largely rural network of Public Rights of Way (PROW). We recognise that this network of paths and ways alongside the County's coastline, open access land, country parks, woodland parks, picnic sites and nature reserves provide opportunities for recreation and tourism which in turn helps the health of the population and supports local businesses and the local economy.

In addition, more urban PROWs provide sustainable travel opportunities to schools, places of work and local amenities and facilities.

We must however also recognise the challenges of managing such a large and expansive network during this ongoing period of limited funding and reduced budgets.

The first Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for Carmarthenshire provided a clear strategic direction for PROW management in the County. In the 10 years since its publication the plan has helped to ensure the best use of resources to make more of the PROW network available and to enhance priority paths and areas of public access. This has involved successful partnership working with volunteers, Town and Community Councils as well as other local Authorities and organisations.

This revised ROWIP is founded on research and consultation with a variety of stakeholders and the public. It takes into account the successes and shortcomings of the first plan through its 10 year term and provides strategic direction to the Countryside Access team, enabling them continue to build on the many positive outcomes.

This plan is ambitious as we strive to achieve significant improvements to our public access network over the next 10 years. We thank all those who have contributed to the preparation of this new ROWIP, the delivery of which will allow more people to enjoy access to our open countryside, coast and the various local attractions and businesses in Carmarthenshire.



County Councillor Hazel Evans  
Executive Board Member for  
Environment



Councillor Peter Hughes-Griffiths  
Executive Board Member for Culture,  
Sport & Tourism.

## **Chairman of Local Access Forum Foreword**

As the Chairman of the Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum, I welcome the opportunity to write this introduction on behalf of the Forum Members. This plan will set the agenda and goals for access to the Countryside, Parks, Towns and Villages in the County for the next 10 years and forms an important document through which the performance of the Local Authority can be measured.

Access for the public is extremely important with significant benefits for health, wellbeing and the economy all being linked to people using the Rights of Way network and other public spaces within Carmarthenshire. The Local Authority needs to ensure that this access is maintained and improved throughout the life of this plan and is encouraged to continue to provide opportunities for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other leisure users throughout the County.

This plan will be regularly examined by the Forum to ensure that the Authority's objectives are being achieved and targets met.

Every member of the public has the right to attend our Forum sessions to observe the discussions and ask relevant questions on the recommendations that it submits to your County Council. If you want to find out more about the Forum please look on the Council's website where you will find copies of Minutes from meetings along with each years annual report that is produced.

Please use your right to ensure the County Council listens to what you want with regards to access by getting in contact with them & the Forum.

Mark Hadley  
Chairman  
Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum



## 1. Introduction

Under section 60(3) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, all Local Authorities in Wales are expected to undergo a statutory review of their present 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan' (RoWIP) within 10 years of publishing their original Plan.

Guidance published in 2016 directs that any emerging Improvement Plans must consider the following;

- The extent to which local Rights of Way (RoW) meet the present and future needs of the public;
- The opportunities provided by local Rights of Way for exercise and other forms of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area; and
- The accessibility of local Rights of Way to blind or partially sighted people and others with mobility problems.

The Improvement Plan must contain an action statement outlining how, as an Authority, Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) can better manage the local Rights of Way network and undertake improvements.

The Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF) is a statutory body established under section 94 of the CRoW Act 2000. Its role is to advise the Council on all countryside recreation matters. Throughout the production of this revised plan, the LAF have provided guidance on the approach taken and research methods used. The Forum has had an advisory role during the production of this plan and will continue to input into the implementation of any actions arising from it.

Some of the Actions and Policies listed in this plan are aspirational. These have the potential to bring significant benefits to local communities and improvements to the network, however, their delivery is subject to securing appropriate grant funding.

**IMAGE**

## **2. Geography & Demographics of Carmarthenshire**

Carmarthenshire is a diverse County with the agricultural economy and landscape of the rural areas contrasted with the urban and industrial south-eastern area. However, as a primarily rural County, the population density is low at 75.7 persons per sq. kilometre, compared with 140 persons per sq. kilometre for Wales as a whole. This scarcity of population is more apparent in rural Carmarthenshire than it is in the south and east of the County where 65% of the population reside on 35% of the land.

The main urban centres of the County include Llanelli, Carmarthen and Ammanford. Carmarthen (due to its central geographic location) typically serves the needs of the County's rural hinterland. There are a number of settlements varying in size often making notable contributions to the needs and requirements of their community and the surrounding area. A number of rural villages and settlements are self-sufficient in terms of facilities and services, however, other smaller settlements lack services and facilities. The needs of residents in these latter areas are typically met by neighbouring settlements.

The richness of Carmarthenshire's natural and cultural environment is highlighted by 7 Special Areas of Conservation, 3 Special Protection Areas, 1 Ramsar site, 82 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (with a further 12 within the Brecon Beacons National Park), 5 National Nature Reserves, 5 Local Nature Reserves and 7 registered landscapes. The County also boasts sites designated at the international level to protect and enhance important nature conservation value, as well as striking landscapes and distinctive historic towns and villages.

The importance of the County's built heritage is borne out by the 27 conservation areas, 470 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (ranging from Prehistoric to post-Medieval/Modern features of cultural historic interest) and a large number of listed buildings.

Agriculture in Carmarthenshire dominates the rural landscape with the agricultural industry and in particular dairy and sheep farming establishing the County as one of the most important agricultural areas in Wales. Some 203,700 ha of land within Carmarthenshire is classified as agricultural land with the majority classified as grade 3a and 4 with a small tranche of grade 2 land in the south-east of the County.

At the LDP base date (2006) the population for the County was estimated to stand at 178,043 with 78,213 households (2006 WG-based projection). The Welsh Government also published a set of 2008-based population and household projections; however the most recent data in the 2011 Census identified the population of Carmarthenshire at 183,777 with 78,829 households.

As displayed in Table 2.1 the population of Carmarthen as a whole, is older than the national average.

**Table 2.1: Population**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>CARMARTHENSHIRE</b>	<b>WALES</b>
Age 0 to 4	5.6%	5.8%
Age 5 to 9	5.3%	5.3%
Age 10 to 14	5.8%	5.8%
Age 15 to 17	3.8%	3.7%
Age 18 to 24	8.2%	9.7%
Age 25 to 29	5.2%	6.1%
Age 30 to 44	17.3%	18.6%
Age 45 to 59	20.9%	19.9%
Age 60 to 64	7.3%	6.7%
Age 65 to 74	11.1%	9.8%
Age 75 to 84	6.9%	6.1%
Age 85 and over	2.8%	2.4%
Mean Age	42.3	40.6
Median Age	44	41

IMAGE

## Why do people visit the Countryside?

According to the Wales Outdoor Recreation Study (WORS) a wide range of activities are enjoyed by people visiting the countryside. Many of these have a low impact on nature. According to the 2016 – 2017 WORS study, walking was the main activity undertaken by nearly three quarters (72%) of all adults in Wales during the last 12 months. Social recreation activities were also very popular, with nearly a third of people enjoying picnicking (31%).

**Table 2.2 Reasons Why People Visit the Countryside**

Activity	Percentage of adults taking part 2016/17
Walking	71.4%
Picnicking	31.3%
Taking children to play area outdoors	31.1%
Informal games (e.g. frisbee or golf)	19.8%
None of these	19.5%
Running	16.9%
Wildlife watching	16.2%
Road cycling	13.0%
Swimming outdoors	12.6%
Off-road cycling or mountain biking	9.1%
Fishing	6.5%
Other watersports	4.8%
Rock climbing or caving	3.6%
Field sports (shooting / hunting)	3.5%
Horse riding	3.0%
Off-road driving or motorcycling	2.9%
Other outdoor activities	2.9%
Motorised watersports	1.5%
Don't know	0.2%

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### 3. The Public Rights of Way Network

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) network provides a valuable recreational resource for use by our communities and visitors to Carmarthenshire. PROWs also offer a sustainable method of travel by promoting use of alternative modes of transport to motor vehicles. They contribute towards health and well-being initiatives and play a part in the economic development of Carmarthenshire by improving quality of life for residents and encouraging tourism. As they are free to access and enjoy, they can also promote social inclusion.

Our statutory responsibilities in respect of the PROW network include:

- Signposting and waymarking of footpaths, bridleways and byways;
- Keeping up to date the Definitive Map and Statement which is the legal record of Public Rights of Way;
- Maintaining the surface of a Public Right of Way to a standard appropriate for the purpose for which it is used;
- Maintaining bridges over natural river courses;
- Keeping the Public Rights of Way open and available by ensuring that other partners fulfil their responsibilities.

Table 3.1 below provides details of the respective numbers and length of recorded routes in Carmarthenshire, being the third largest local authority network in Wales.

**Table 3.1 Network Routes & Length**

<b>Route Type</b>	<b>Number of Routes</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>
Footpath	2951	2198.0
Bridleway	136	164.8
Byway Open to All Traffic	88	77.9
Restricted Byway	1	1.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3176</b>	<b>2442.4</b>

#### **4. The Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way**

All Public Rights of Way in Carmarthenshire – footpaths, bridleways and byways are recorded on the Definitive Map and Definitive Statement. If a way is shown on the map then it is conclusive evidence of Public Rights along the way unless there has been a legally authorised amendment. However, the fact that a way is not shown on the map is not proof that the public has no rights over it and thus, the map may be subject to change.

Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory duty, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, to keep the map up to date. The Council also has a duty to investigate any application to add or delete Rights of Way or to change their status – either by upgrading or downgrading.

The Definitive Map is accompanied by the Definitive Statement. This is a description which may contain more information about individual paths, such as the start and end points, width of the way, etc.

The Definitive Map is available digitally via the Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). The Map is continually under review. The map usually requires amendments and updating as a result of requests to create, divert or extinguish paths. Development, or the discovery of new historical evidence, may also result in amendments having to be made. A major part of maintaining this document is modifying it by legal order to add previously unrecorded rights of way to the map. However, many routes with Public Rights may be unregistered. This is particularly relevant in respect of “lost ways”.

Legislation has been passed in England which effectively creates a cut-off date of 2026 after which no routes can be considered supported purely by historical information. This is anticipated to also have an impact on Wales, and will inevitably lead to an increased number of applications nearer the cut-off date.

The procedure by which these claimed routes can become definitive Rights of Way, and have the same legal status, is by means of a complex and often contentious legal process, known as a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO). This is usually dependent on historical documentation and testimony of user evidence. In addition orders may be processed that create divert or extinguish a path or reclassify it, these are known as Legal Events. These orders recognise new paths, extinguish paths, divert paths or change the status of paths. The processes to make these changes include:

- i. Public Path Orders (PPOs) agreed by the landowner, the Unitary Authority and users. These orders are processed under the Highways Act 1980 and Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- ii. Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) confirmed as a result of presumed rights, claims or the discovery of relevant historical evidence. These orders are processed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

- iii. Section 116, Highways Act 1980 Power of magistrates` court to authorise stopping up or diversion of highway.

The Definitive Map and Statement is under continual review. Since 2007, the County Council has processed 11 applications to modify the Definitive Map and 108 Public Path Orders. Each successful Public Path Order has been the subject of a Legal Event Modification Order.

While the Definitive Map for the County is perhaps relatively up to date in comparison with some other authorities, there is still a substantial backlog of Orders awaiting processing. The Council receive on average 60 applications per year to change the Definitive Map, with future demand likely to increase. Given available resources, the Council are likely to be able to process a maximum of 40 applications for Orders per year. Because of the historic staffing levels a backlog of applications and in-house promoted Orders has accrued (approx. 148). This backlog will inevitably continue to grow whilst incoming applications and available resources to process them remain at their present levels.

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## **5. EVALUATION OF COMPLETENESS**

Welsh Government guidance for the ROWIP review requests that an evaluation of the completeness of the record of limitations and authorised structures on the Public Rights of Way network and the process in place for their authorisation.

The purpose of this is to address 3 key functions;

- To inform the public of the local arrangements for their regulation;
- To provide a picture of current practice across Wales; and
- To provide an opportunity for authorities to consider their procedures and, if necessary, address any issues identified.

### **Carmarthenshire County Council Evaluation**

The Definitive Statement of Public Rights of Way for Carmarthenshire provides partial information in respect of limitations on the County's Public Rights of Way Network. The current Statement for Carmarthenshire, prepared under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 includes firstly, limitations recorded by the Parish Councils and submitted to the Local Authority as part of the original parish survey.

It is worth noting that the quality of information and level of detail submitted by the Parish Councils during the surveys varied enormously and that not all of the limitations and authorised structures recorded were included in the final definitive statement. This has meant that there has always been significant disparity between the recorded limitations held on the Definitive Statement and the actual situation on the ground.

Additional information in respect of limitations has been added to the Definitive Statement largely through the Public Path Order and Modification Order processes which have been ongoing since the first publication of Carmarthenshire's first consolidated Definitive Map and Statement. This continues to be an ongoing process.

These processes have led to an increase in accurately recorded limitations contained in Carmarthenshire's Statement but the document is still far from a complete record.

Carmarthenshire's more complete record of limitations is the data held on the CAMS digital mapping system. Information in respect of structures on the network is regularly inputted and updated and the CAMS system is used as a day to day management tool. Information provided to the public in respect of limitations is often taken from CAMS and, where survey data is sufficiently detailed, can provide a complete picture of the accessibility of the network.

Authorisation of structures/limitations outside of the legal order process is carried out under section 147 of the Highways Act 1980. The authorisation of limitations through this

process are not reflected in the Definitive Statement but are held as a permanent record on the individual path file and referenced on CAMS.

## 6. Other Public Access Opportunities

In addition to the PRow network there are other valuable opportunities to access the countryside such as:

- A. Open Access Land designated under the CRoW Act, consisting of open country such as mountains and moorland and 'registered common land'. There are approximately 7600 hectares (ha.) of Open Access Land where the public have the right to roam on foot, this also includes areas of 'dedicated open access land' where landowners, for example Natural Resources Wales, permit open access. Some of this land also carries the right to roam for horse riders or permission has been granted for horse riders and carriage drivers.
- B. Unclassified Road Network amounting to approximately 170 Unclassified Roads (often referred to as "Green Lanes") with vehicular rights, totalling some 150 kilometres of largely unsurfaced routes, which play a significant role in the provision of recreational routes, for all users.
- C. Cycleways,  
**Category A** – Cycle lane forming part of the carriageway, commonly 1.5m strip adjacent to nearside kerb.  
**Category B** – Cycle track – a highway route for cyclists not contiguous with the public footway or carriageway. Shared cycle/pedestrian paths, either segregated by a white line or un-segregated.  
**Category C** – Cycle trails, leisure routes through open spaces, not necessarily the responsibility of highway authority but may be maintained by an authority.  
On Road - signed route but using normal carriageway, no segregation
- D. CCC Sites largely owned and managed by the Authority providing valuable recreational access, often to user groups with poorer provision in the wider countryside for example people with physical disabilities and horse riders.
- E. Coastal Access to the foreshore where public access exists. Also the nationally recognised Wales Coast Path, a linear route around the coast of Wales established between 2007 and 2014 which provides unrivalled access to the coastline of Carmarthenshire, through a range of habitats and coastal landscapes.
- F. Permissive Access delivered in a number ways, such as through Glastir Agri-Environmental Funded Schemes or over National Trust properties, primarily for walkers.

- G. “Lost Ways” - these are routes which are not currently shown on the Definitive Map or the “List of Streets” but which may have public rights for a range of users.

## **7. MAINTENANCE**

In managing the network of Public Rights of Way in Carmarthenshire the Council has to maintain surfaces of routes and bridges, signposts where they leave a metalled road and ensure that the routes are free from natural & man made obstructions. The Council must also ensure that landowners carry out their responsibilities, which includes the maintenance of Rights of Way furniture such as stiles and gates, and the removal of vegetation encroaching from the sides or above the Rights of Way.

Historically the maintenance of the Rights of Way network on the ground has been greatly under-funded and under resourced. Maintenance is a vital element for Rights of Way - neglect of essential small-scale strimming and clearance results over time in major works of tree/shrub clearance from routes and far greater issues from the perspective of both owners and users.

Since the first ROWIP 2007-2017 many aspects of the ROW maintenance have changed. Of the original thirty four active Town and Community Councils only six now carry out the same duties. The primary means of maintenance was, and still is, carried out by the Ranger Service. Nine fulltime rangers were employed to carry out these works but due to ever increasing budgetary constraints the number of rangers have now been reduced to four.

As a consequence of this we now use approved contractors, on a part time basis, to do the work of vegetation clearance. This leaves the rangers free to concentrate on coordinating work with landowners and dealing with the more demanding and complex issues. To better meet the needs of the residents and visitors to Carmarthenshire, and to meet the County Councils legal obligations, an increase of resources would be required. We aim to work closer with Town and Community Councils to encourage greater involvement from them to maintain their local ROW and help to identify a list of key priority routes within their communities.

Appendix 1 contains a list of participating Town & Community Councils together with details of the number of Rights of Way within their areas.

It is important that environmental sustainability is considered when we plan maintenance or enhancement works. The timing and manner of maintenance will be carefully considered so as not to have adverse impacts on protected species.

IMAGE

## 8. IMPROVEMENTS

In recent years improvements on the network have been carried out using the limited budgets and grants available. As budgets and number of Rangers reduce further, improvements will need to be prioritised and scored to achieve best value.

Since a review in 2007 much has been achieved:

- 1355 Rights of Way (1272kms) have been worked on, made up of; 1,099 kms footpaths, 98km bridleways, 46kms of Byways and 29kms unclassified roads (Source).
- Work has been completed on the Wales Coastal Path, Tywi, Teifi and St Illtyd Trails. The Heart of Wales Trail is nearing completion.
- The Rights of Way software package continues to be developed and improved and more information input / extracted to give meaningful reports.
- 22 County Walks have been established and promoted via Tourist Information Centres and other outlets.
- Positive reaction has been received from local councils, public bodies, other organisations, land owner groups and the general public.
- Successful grants bids have at least doubled the effective budget for Public Rights of Way improvements and provided substantial improvements to the walking network in Carmarthenshire.

However, there is much more to do and the Authority will continue to seek partnership funding to enable further improvements and better promotion of walks and trails in the County.

As these improvements are completed, over time, the Maintenance team will be able to give more attention to maintenance issues. The proper maintenance of County Walks and other promoted routes must be a priority issue. The need for sustainable maintenance will increase in importance over the Plan period and is a critical factor for the ROWIP to address, subject to the availability of sufficient funding.

## 9. Resources

In the last decade, despite reduced funding and resources the proportion of the network that is open has increased since 2012 and 2017, as evidenced by table 9.1.

The Countryside Access Maintenance Unit responsible for maintaining the network has also suffered, with Ranger staff severely reduced. Six additional Rangers were appointed in the last decade in addition to an existing three, but under the latest restructure only four remain.

Despite a reduction in resources the responsibilities remain the same, but the remit is now greater than before (E.g. Wales Coast Path, new sites to maintain). Measures are in place to deal with most of these issues, but the list of requests for maintenance continues to grow due to improved contact with user groups, Community Councils and the public.

A continuation of the annual capital budget of £50,000 is critical. This is used as match funding for grants and to purchase materials, hiring of plant and for the use of seasonal contractors for less complex project works and general maintenance purposes. This allows significant improvements to the network to develop easier access for people of all abilities. Given the present circumstances it will be increasingly important to encourage and support Town and Community Councils to take responsibility for some of the key paths in their areas. We anticipate a mixed response to this as historically Town and Community Councils have shown a diverse range of attitudes towards getting involved with the ROW network within their boundaries.

An increased use of contract staff in 2017- 18 to cover a vegetation clearance schedule of work has enabled the Rangers to concentrate on liaison with landowners, carry out our statutory requirements and to manage and support contract staff. Promoted routes have been reduced in number in order to focus efforts and limited resources on the best walks and rides in the County to maintain them to a high standard. Plans are in place to improve the quality of information on the County Council's *Discover Carmarthenshire* website to encourage walking, cycling and horse riding for residents and to support local economies through tourism.

We intend on working with volunteers to help survey the network and to carry out simple lightly supervised tasks as we can no longer commit to running international working holidays.

Greater use is now made of the CAMS digital mapping system to log, prioritise and record all works carried out or planned and is available for use by more staff than previously. Upgrading and improving the system along with ongoing staff training will be essential.

Despite the significant reduction in staff and resources and a pressing need to open up a much larger percentage of the ROW network, improvements have been made year on year in the number of *paths open accessible and signed*, as shown in the table below. From



2015/2016 there was no longer a statutory need to carry out our annual performance indicator surveys.

In assessing the current condition of the network, the primary source was the Carmarthenshire Annual Performance Indicator (5% sample) which indicates the following;

**Table 9.1: Performance Indicator (PI) (5% Sample) Survey Results**

Measures	% Pass					
	2012	2013	2014	2015*	2016*	2017**
Open, Accessible and Signed (CMT/001 PI)	37.9	34.6	41.4	-	-	47.6
Open and Accessible	52.2	50.8	53.2	-	-	59.3
Open	52.2	51.1	53.9	-	-	59.3

\*Performance indicators stopped being a requirement in 2014, hence no data for 2015 or 16.

\*\*CCC conducted their own survey in 2017 to update their own records

CCC to look at whether there is a table that can be provided to show a breakdown of bridleways.

IMAGE

## 10. The Review Process

The Carmarthenshire ROWIP covers all the County with the exception of the section (largely the Black Mountains) which forms part of the Brecon Beacons National Park. There is currently an agency agreement between Carmarthenshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park who manage and maintain the Rights of Way network that falls within the National Park boundary. Within that area the relevant ROWIP will be that prepared by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Welsh Government guidance published in July 2016 outlines the ROWIP review process, as shown on Diagram 1.

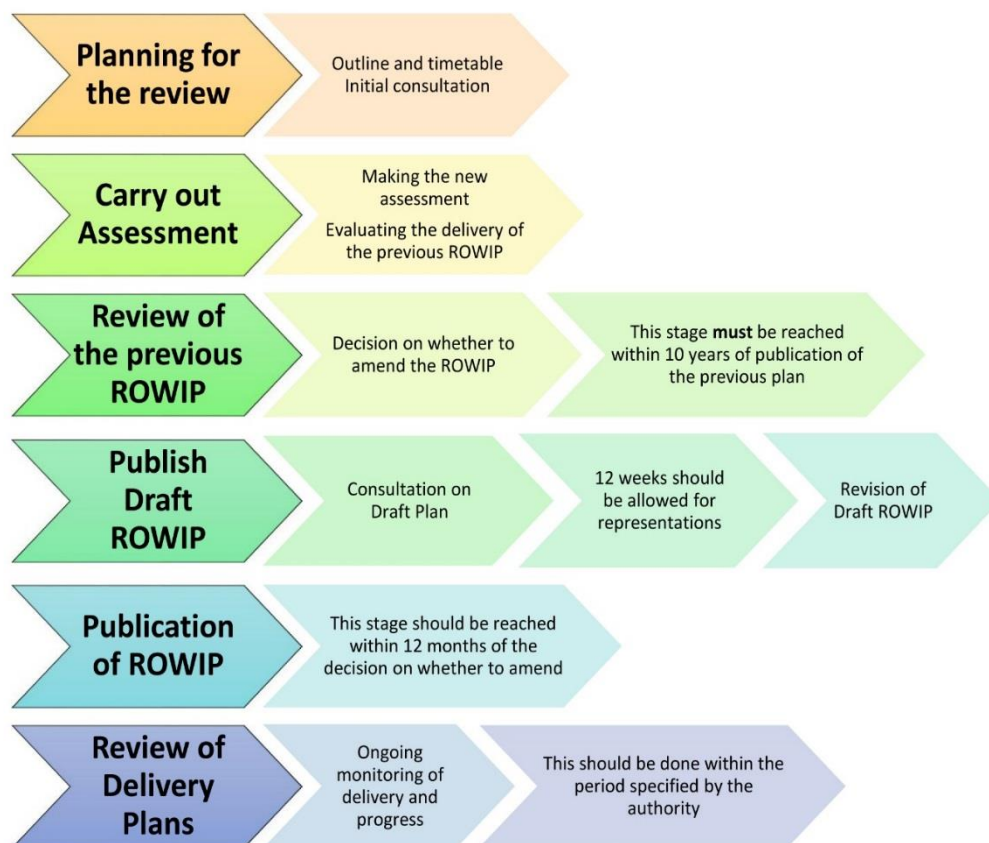


Diagram 1: Summary of the ROWIP process and timetable

## 11. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Policies and Actions of the revised ROWIP both compliment and contribute towards the aims and objectives of a number of pieces of both Welsh and UK legislation.

### a) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) puts in place a stronger, more coherent sustainable development framework for Wales through a set of seven well-being goals, a sustainable development principle, and a strong duty for all public bodies to carry out sustainable development, reflecting the need to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This Rights of Way Improvement Plan compliments the key objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

<i>Well-being Goal</i>	Carmarthenshire ROWIP
<i>A prosperous Wales</i>	<p>Natural resources provide opportunities for employment and economic activity. For example, wildlife and outdoor activity tourism to Wales provides around 206,000 jobs and is estimated to be worth £6.2 billion.</p> <p>The PROW network provide unrivalled access to Carmarthenshire’s varied natural and historically rich countryside.</p> <p>Tourism is a key component of Carmarthenshire’s economy and a major source of employment and revenue supporting over 5,547 full time equivalent jobs either directly or indirectly and generating £326m revenue to the County’s economy annually.</p> <p>provide</p>
<i>A resilient Wales</i>	<p>The countryside and the PROW Network all contribute to supporting Wales’ ability to adapt to climate change by providing opportunities for sustainable travel via the Footpath, Bridleway and Byways network across the County.</p>
<i>A healthier Wales</i>	<p>Natural resources make a significant contribution to the physical health and mental well-being of people in Wales.</p> <p>Open space has the potential to provide benefits to health and wellbeing and can assist in mitigating the causes and effects of inactivity.</p> <p>Open spaces can also provide arenas for social interaction and community activities, and have a key role to play in underpinning other key strategic documents, such as the Health, Social Care and Well Being strategy.</p> <p>The PROW network enables the public at large to take advantage of the health</p>

	benefits offered by the natural environment.
<i>A more equal Wales</i>	We want to minimise negative and maximise positive impacts for everyone. At present, sections of the Rights of Way Networks are not accessible to everyone and the very nature of certain routes may restrict those with mobility problems from accessing the entire network. However, we endeavour to provide access to all where possible, enabling all members of society to enjoy the access opportunities the network provides.
<i>A Wales of cohesive communities</i>	This Improvement Plan will involve communities, Local Access Forums, other organisations and volunteers in the management of the Rights of Way Network, as this joint working has been shown to improve community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour.
<i>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</i>	Landscapes have played a significant role in the development of distinct cultural practices, such as local building techniques relying on local materials, along with locally specific art and literature. This Improvement Plan will act to protect all cultural aspects of the Rights of Way Network.
<i>A globally responsible Wales</i>	The environment supplies all our material resources, this Improvement Plan will ensure that in maintaining and improving the PROW network, we use only our fair share.

### **b) The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013**

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 [“the 2013 Act”] places a duty on Local Authorities to secure new Active Travel routes and related facilities, to secure improvements to existing routes and facilities and to promote active travel journeys.

Section 9 of the 2013 Act requires local authorities to take reasonable steps, as far as it is practical, to enhance the provision for walkers and cyclists in the exercise of specified functions including those relating to creation, improvement, maintenance and enforcement of highways (including public Rights of Way) under parts 3, 4, 5, 9, and 12 of the Highways Act 1980.

Carmarthenshire has an extensive Active Travel Network, and this Strategy pays due regard to the Active Travel Act. The following two actions are contained with Aim 3 of the Action Plan under the sub-heading Cycling, demonstrate our commitment to developing Active Travel routes as part of the Rights of Way Network;

**AIM 3: ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**

**CYCLING**

**ACTION 23:**

Develop and maintain cycle ways in accordance with Carmarthenshire Cycle Strategy and the Active Travel Act.

**ACTION 24:**

Provide regular advice to and actively engage with the Transport Strategy and Infrastructure team in schemes being developed under Active Travel and/or the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

**c) The Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 [“the Equality Act”] draws together a range of discrimination legislation and largely replaced the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Equality Act specifies a number of ‘*protected characteristics*’: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act makes it unlawful to directly or indirectly discriminate against someone on the grounds of those characteristics.

Section 149, outlined below, also introduces a ‘public sector equality duty’ requiring that, in the exercise of its functions, authorities to have due regard to the need to;

**d) The Equality Act, Section 149;**

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
  - (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
- (a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - (b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
  - (c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- (4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
- (a) Tackle prejudice, and
  - (b) Promote understanding.
- (6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- (7) The relevant protected characteristics are—
- Age;
  - Disability;
  - Gender reassignment;
  - Pregnancy and maternity;
  - Race;

- Religion or belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation.

This Rights of Way Improvement Plan pays due regard to the requirements of the Act, as demonstrated by the following two actions contained within Aim 1 of the Action Plan under the sub-heading Access for All;

**AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**

**ACCESS FOR ALL**

**ACTION 14:**

Adopt the policy of Least Restrictive Access and follow the principles of "By All Reasonable Means" using appropriate advice and guidance to improve the accessibility of all countryside access schemes.

**ACTION 15:**

Engage with established advisory groups such as the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition and relevant organisations on opportunities to upgrade the network for people with disabilities and other less able users. Also, take active steps to identify and appoint a LAF member to represent the interests and needs of disabled and less abled users.

**e) Local Government Act 1999**

Section 3 of The Local Government Act 1999 requires local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. In doing so, authorities must consult, among others, representatives of persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority.

Section 3 of the Act states;

- (1) A best value authority must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- (2) For the purpose of deciding how to fulfil the duty arising under subsection (1) an authority must consult—
  - (a) Representatives of persons liable to pay any tax, precept or levy to or in respect of the authority,

- (b) Representatives of persons liable to pay non-domestic rates in respect of any area within which the authority carries out functions,
- (c) Representatives of persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority, and
- (d) Representatives of persons appearing to the authority to have an interest in any area within which the authority carries out functions.

This Rights of Way Improvement Plan pays due regard to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, as outlined in Section 11 significant consultation was undertaken and all sections of the community in Carmarthenshire were given the opportunity to provide feedback and opinion on the continuous improvement of the Rights of Way network.

DRAFT



## f) Carmarthenshire Environment Act Forward Plan 2017 – 2019

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales’ resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up manner and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Government’s wider remit under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

The Environment Act supports the key outcomes listed in Table 11.1, many of these overlap with the Policies and Actions listed in this Improvement Plan. Both the Environment Act and the ROWIP recognise the diverseness of the County’s natural environment and the richness of its biodiversity. Both Plans seek to protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment so that people who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire can take advantage of the health, social, educational and cultural benefits of spending increased time in a well-managed outdoor environment.

**Table 11.1: Carmarthenshire Environment Act Forward Plan 2017 – 2019 Expected Outcomes**

<b>Corporate Strategic Expected Outcomes and Strategic Focus</b>
<p><b>Making Better Use of Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating and developing new ways of working and providing services</li> <li>• Improved public satisfaction levels with the services provided by the Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building a Better Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing collaboration with our partners and communities in order to support the delivery of services</li> </ul>
<p><b>People in Carmarthenshire are healthier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting more Carmarthenshire people more (physically and creatively) active, more often in order to improve the health and well-being of our residents.</li> <li>• Increased use of leisure facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully introducing and translating the new national curriculum and qualifications into an inspiring and engaging local curriculum</li> </ul>
<p><b>People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing anti-social behaviour by working in partnership with other agencies and communities to tackle local problems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire’s communities and environment are sustainable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing and utilising our rich natural environment whilst at the same time adapting to future needs as a result of climate change</li> <li>• Supporting resilience with our rural and urban communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing training and learning opportunities for local people</li> </ul>

## **g) Local Development Plan**

The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in December 2014.

The LDP sets out the spatial vision for the future of Carmarthenshire (excluding that area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and a framework for the distribution and delivery of growth and development.

It sets out land-use planning policies and proposals which are used in the determination of planning applications and in guiding future opportunities for investment and growth.

These policies include land-use allocations for different types of development (i.e. housing, employment, retailing, education, open space etc.) as well as criteria for assessing individual proposals.

The Plan has a direct effect on the lives of every resident of the County as well as major implications on investment programmes, other plans and strategies, communities and landowners alike.

The LDP contains a number of policies that support and compliment this Rights of Way Strategy including;

### **SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment**

Development should reflect the need to protect, and wherever possible enhance the County's natural environment.

All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national guidance/legislation and the policies and proposals of this Plan, with due consideration given to areas of nature conservation value, the countryside, landscapes and coastal areas, including those outlined below:

- a. Statutory designated sites including Ramsar sites, SPAs, SACs, SSSIs and National Nature Reserves;
- b. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Value, including protected species and habitats of acknowledged importance as well as key connectivity corridors and pathways;
- c. Regional and Locally important sites (and their features) including Local Nature Reserves and RIGS;
- d. Areas of identified Landscape and Seascape quality (including SLAs);
- e. Features which contribute to local distinctiveness, nature conservation value or the landscape;
- f. The Open Countryside;
- g. The best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2 and 3a);
- h. Natural assets: including air, soil (including high carbon soils) controlled waters and water resources.

### **SP15 Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

Proposals for tourism related developments and for appropriate extensions to existing facilities will be supported where they are in accordance with the locational hierarchy set out below and are acceptable in terms of scale, type of development, siting and general impact:

- i. Within the development limits of Growth Areas and Service Centres - major tourism proposals, including high level traffic generators;
- ii. Within the development limits of Local Service Centres and Sustainable Communities – smaller scale proposals which reflect the character of the area which are appropriate in terms of size, scale and impact;
- iii. Open Countryside – small scale location specific developments that must satisfy policy TSM3, except where they are subject to the provisions of TSM2 and/or TSM5.

### **SP16 Community Facilities**

The LDP will support the provision of new facilities, along with the protection and enhancement of existing facilities, in accordance with the settlement framework and based upon evidence of need. Proposals for new education and training related developments will be supported where it supports the settlement framework and accords with the policies of this Plan.

### **SP17 Infrastructure**

Development will be directed to locations where adequate and appropriate infrastructure is available or can be readily provided. The LDP therefore supports the economic provision of infrastructure by allocating sites in identified settlements and in accordance with the Settlement Framework.

Renewable energy generation and associated utility connections will be encouraged, in appropriate locations, subject to other Plan policies.

Proposals for ancillary developments to the utilities infrastructure will be permitted where:

- a. They have regard to their setting;
- b. Incorporate landscaping;
- c. Do not conflict with the areas built, historic, cultural and nature conservation and landscape qualities.

IMAGE

## **h.) Draft Carmarthenshire Well-Being Plan**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on each Public Services Board (PSB) to develop and publish a county Well-being Plan by May 2018. As part of the preparation of this draft Plan, Carmarthenshire PSB has undertaken a detailed Well-being Assessment of the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the county and the assessment, along with a series of engagement events that have been used to identify the Carmarthenshire well-being objectives and the actions to make progress against those objectives.

The Plan is currently out to consultation, however the key objectives are;

**Healthy Habits:** People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment.

**Early Intervention:** To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.

**Strong Connections:** Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.

**Prosperous Places:** To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.

IMAGE

## 12. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

### a) Initial Consultation

In March 2017 initial consultation letters were sent to a variety of stakeholders to outline the steps that CCC would be taking to consult on and update the ROWIP.

Local Authorities: Ceredigion County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Powys County Council and Swansea City Council.

A summary of Statutory Stakeholders: National Authorities, Brecon Beacons National Park, Tourism Businesses, Local Access Forums, Natural Resource Wales, etc.

The purpose of this was to advise stakeholders of CCC's intention to update the ROWIP and the timetable for doing so.

### b.) Public Consultation

In accordance with Welsh Government Guidance, published in July 2016, consultation on the Draft ROWIP was held over a 12 week period. A revised draft was produced as a result of comments and observations received in respect of the first draft, this was also subject to a further 12 week consultation.

The aim of the consultation was to reach all appropriate audiences required by the delivery guidance including children/young people and other 'seldom heard' groups, those groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010, key stakeholders and delivery partners, all persons that had requested to be consulted and the wider general public.

The scope of activities undertaken also reflected the fact that different types of consultation be made available for different stakeholders. Accordingly, a wide range of activities were employed including face to face engagement and online consultation.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Policy, all documentation and publicity material was bilingual.

The following summarises the activities / publicity efforts that were implemented;

- (i) **Initial Consultation** – In accordance with the guidance initial consultation was undertaken with the following groups. Communications were dispatched setting out terms of reference, outlining statutory matters supplementary matters along with a timetable outlining the Rights of Way Improvement programme:

- Each local highway authority whose area adjoins their area;
- Each community council;
- The National Park authority for a National Park any part of which is within Carmarthenshire County Council;
- Any Local Access Forum established for their area or any part of it;
- Natural Resources Wales;
- Such persons as the National Assembly for Wales may by regulations prescribe in relation to the local highway authority's area; and
- Such other persons as the local highway authority may consider appropriate.

- (ii) **Consultation Document** – a document was prepared by the Council which identified the purpose of the consultation, how comments could be submitted, the actions / policies being consulted upon and information on what happens next.
- (iii) **Questionnaire / Survey** – a series of questionnaires were developed to facilitate and guide responses submitted to the Council.
- (iv) **Online** – all consultation documentation, was hosted on the Council's website and the 'Objective' consultation portal respectively during the 12 week consultation period.

The On line Consultation activity was promoted via;

- Facebook,
- Twitter, and
- A series of targeted emails.

Four different questionnaires, targeting four distinct stakeholder groups were posted on line:

- Town and Community Councils,
- Land Owners,
- Organisations, and
- Members of the Public.

- (v) **Correspondence** – correspondence was dispatched to all relevant individuals, stakeholders/delivery partners, organisations and schools describing the purpose of the consultation, identifying where more information could be obtained and how representations could be made.
- (vi) **Press Release / Social Media** – over the duration of the consultation process, press releases along with a series of Tweets and Facebook posts were published via the Council's corporate social media account to promote the consultation.
- (vii) **Utilisation of existing networks** – relevant information was dispatched to all Council staff via the Council's internal communications forums. Furthermore, the

Council also made local landowners aware of the consultation through existing networks such as the 'Local Access Forum'.

**c.) Town and Community Council Responses**

Correspondence was sent to 72 Town and Community Councils inviting them to engage in the consultation process. Three responded to the online survey;

- Llangyndeyrn Town Council,
- Laugharne Township Community Council, and
- Llanddarog Community Council.

The following is a summary of the feedback provided by the Town and Community Councils who responded to the On Line Survey. More detailed responses are available on request.

**What are your views on the suitability of the network for each of the following?**

	Walkers	Horse Riders	Restricted Mobility	Families	Horse Drawn Carriage	Motorcyclists	4x4 Drivers	Dog Walkers
Excellent	33%	-	-	-	-	-	-	33%
Good	33%	-	-	-	-	-	-	33%
Average	-	-	-	67%	-	33%	33%	-
Poor	-	67%	33%	-	33%	-	-	-
Very Poor	33%	-	33%	33%	-	-	-	33%
No Answer	-	33%	33%	-	67%	67%	67%	-
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**How important do you feel it is that the Rights of Way Network;**

	Creates Circular Routes	Avoids Busy Roads	Connects to Public Transport	Improves Accessibility for those with Reduced Mobility	Improves Health & Well Being
Very Important	67%	67%	67%	100%	100%
Somewhat Important	33%	33%	33%	-	-
Somewhat Unimportant	-	-	-	-	-
Not Important At All	-	-	-	-	-
No Answer	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

When asked to identify their priorities for the future of the Network, the Town and Community Councils identified the following 5 issues as their prioritises;

### Top 5 Priorities for the Future of the Rights of Way Network

1.	General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation
2.	Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more signs at roadsides and waymarkers along public paths and at entrances to access land
3.	Active travel work - provide paths which link to public transport, places of work, shops and other amenities
4.	School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils
5.	Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties

#### d.) Land Owners

A total of 17 Land Owners responded to the Land Owners questionnaire that was posted on-line during the 12 week consultation period.

The following is a summary of the feedback provided by Land Owners who responded to the On Line Survey. More detailed responses are available on request.

#### How would you prioritise the proposed Aims in the Draft Strategy?

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
Ensure the network is easy to use	27%	9%	46%	-	18%
Provide an accurate and up to date Definitive Map	36%	27%	9%	-	27%
Improved Access	9%	27%	18%	18%	27%
Improved Partnership Working	33%	8%	25%	17%	17%
Improved Information Provision	8%	17%	8%	33%	33%



Indicate your level of satisfaction with the following:

	Provision of Furniture	Waymarking	Surface Clearance	Definitive Map	Countryside Access Service
Very Satisfied	8%	8%	17%	17%	-
Satisfied	33%	17%	25%	17%	25%
Dissatisfied	17%	33%	17%	33%	17%
Very Dissatisfied	17%	25%	16%	8%	25%
No Answer	25%	17%	25%	25%	33%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### e). Organisations

A total of 6 organisations responded to the organisations questionnaire that was posted on-line during the 12 week consultation period;

- Dinefwr Ramblers (Ramblers Association);
- Llanpumsaint Walkers are Welcome;
- Clwb Cerdded Llanpumsaint Walking Club;
- Llwybrau Bro Cader;
- Walking Well, St. Clears, and
- West Wales Animal Aid.

The following is a summary of the feedback provided by the Organisations who responded to the On Line Survey. More detailed responses are available on request.

**Where do your members get information on the Rights of Way Network? (respondents had the opportunity to select more than one option)**

	Responses
Ordnance Survey maps	6
A local library	1
Carmarthenshire County Council Website	4
Other website	4
A guidebook or leaflet	3

Local knowledge	4
A club or association e.g. Ramblers, fishing club	2
A friend or family member	2
A local hotel / guesthouse / B&B	0
The Rights of Way team in Carmarthenshire	4

## IMAGE

**What discourages your members from using the Rights of Way Network? (respondents could select more than one option)**

	Tick All That Apply
I don't know where the routes are	5
The routes don't go where I want to go	5
The paths I use can be obstructed sometimes	3
The condition/surface of the path can be an issue	1
I don't like crossing someone else's land or walking through a farmyard	1
I feel intimidated	1
I don't want to get caught in bad weather conditions	1
I'm worried about getting lost	1
There is a lack of organised walks	0
I have concerns over my safety	0
There are too many stiles to negotiate for me to enjoy using the network	0
There is a lack of public transport to get me to a right of way	0

Other Rights of Way users	<b>0</b>
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**How satisfied are you with the Rights of Way Section in respect of the following;**

	Standard of Furniture	Signage & Waymarking	Improvement Work	Promotion	Surfaces	Maintenance of Definitive Route Map
Very Satisfied	-	-	-	-	20%	-
Satisfied	80%	33%	67%	17%	40%	50%
Dissatisfied	20%	17%		33%	20%	33%
Very Dissatisfied	-	50%	33%	-	20%	-
No Opinion	-	-	-	50%	-	17%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**What discourages you from using the Rights of Way Network? (respondents had the opportunity to select more than one option)**

	Responses
Signage and waymarking (poor or missing)	<b>30</b>
Vegetation (surface or overhanging growth)	<b>22</b>
Ploughing / crops	<b>15</b>
Surface condition/drainage issues	<b>13</b>
Intimidation (from other users or landowners)	<b>7</b>
Stiles or gates (in a poor state or inappropriate for user)	<b>7</b>
Missing bridge	<b>7</b>
Obstructions or barriers (any obstacle preventing access)	<b>6</b>

Obstructions or barriers (any obstacle preventing access)	5
Inaccurate information (path not as per Definitive Map or on a leaflet)	5
Animals (dogs not on leads or farm animals preventing access)	2
Something else	2

**Where do you get information on the Rights of Way Network? (respondents had the opportunity to select more than one option)**

	Responses
Ordnance Survey maps	35
A local library	1
Carmarthenshire County Council Website	14
Other website	3
A guidebook or leaflet	14
Local knowledge	24
A club or association e.g. Ramblers, fishing club	11
A friend or family member	7
A local hotel / guesthouse / B&B	1
The Rights of Way team in Carmarthenshire	3

**f). Members of the Public**

A total of 41 members of the public responded to the questionnaire that was posted on-line during the 12 week consultation period. Responses were received from a wide area covering 14 different post codes across the County.

The following is a summary of the feedback provided by members of the public who responded to the On Line Survey. More detailed responses are available on request.

**What do you use the Rights of Way Network for and how often do you use it?**

	Walking	Running	Horse Riding	Horse Drawn	4x4 Driving	Motor	Dog Walking

				Vehicle		Cycling	
Daily	54%	3%	-	-	-	-	42%
Weekly	36%	16%	-	-	-	-	3%
Monthly	10%	9%	4%	-	-	-	7%
Twice Yearly	-	-	4%	-	4%	4%	-
Yearly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Never	-	66%	94%	100%	96%	96%	45%
No Answer	-	6%	-	-	-	-	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**In your opinion how good is provision for the following;**

	Walking	Horse Riding	People with reduced mobility	Cyclists	Horse Drawn Carriages	Motorcycling / 4x4 Driving
Excellent	3%	-	-	3%	-	-
Good	21%	3%	-	9%	-	3%
Average	47%	6%	9%	14%	-	6%
Poor	21%	18%	31%	9%	16%	6%
Very Poor	8%	9%	34%	3%	7%	3%
No opinion	-	64%	26%	62%	77%	82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**In your opinion how satisfied are you with the following:**

	Standard of Furniture	Signage & Waymarking	Improvement Work	Promotion	Surfaces	Maintenance of Definitive Route Map
Very Satisfied	5%	-	8%	3%	3%	-
Satisfied	57%	39%	40%	21%	59%	28%
Dissatisfied	30%	33%	26%	30%	27%	28%
Very Dissatisfied	8%	28%	8%	20%	8%	16%
No	-	-	18%	26%	3%	28%

Opinion						
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**g). Rights of Way Workshop**

Capita, with the Countryside Access Team in attendance, hosted a Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to which members of the public were invited to attend. Hosted at Dinefwr Farm House in Llandeilo the workshop was designed to give members of the public the opportunity to engage directly with the Countryside Access staff on the development of the new strategy.

The event was attended by 8 members of the public, 2 of whom represented Llandybie Community Council. In addition a Rights of Way Officer from Brecon Beacons National Park was in attendance.

Discussions during the event focussed on the following 3 task and finish activities;

- Task 1: Review the proposed aims for the new Rights of Way Strategy;
- Task 2: Review the proposed policies and actions for the new Rights of Way Strategy;
- Task 3: Prioritise budget allocations across the network.

During Task 1 delegates were asked to discuss the appropriateness of the proposed Aims.

Task 2 involved delegates reviewing the proposed Rights of Way policies and objectives. Feedback and responses provided by the Group was used refine and improve the proposed objectives.

For the final task, delegates were asked to prioritise budget allocations across a series of different criteria. Individuals were assigned £100 which they could spend on infrastructure on the network.

More detailed responses are available on request.

**h). Local Access Forum**

The Local Access Forum (LAF) played a key role in developing and shaping this Strategy. In accordance with WG Guidance, CCC has engaged the LAF in the following way;

<b>WG ROWIP Guidance</b>	<b>LAF Involvement</b>
Assisting with dialogue through contacts with national, regional and local organisations.	The LAF assisted by providing local, national and regional contacts to which consultation material was circulated.
Informing the data gathering exercise including the extent to which local Rights of Way meet the present and likely future needs of the public.	LAF members engaged in a wide range of consultation activities.

Advising on how the network could be improved for the public and where there are particular land management concerns.	The LAF highlighted where improvements were needed on the Network and this information was used to develop appropriate actions on the Action Plan.
Advising on the related issue of access to open countryside especially where new linear routes may be desirable.	The LAF identified access issues and highlighted where linear routes could be developed and this information was used to develop appropriate actions for this Strategy.
Providing advice on prioritising implementation.	The LAF provided assistance in defining the High, Medium and Low actions within the Action Plan.
Commenting on published draft plans.	Several meetings and Workshops were arranged with the LAF so that they could provide comment and feedback on the emerging Plan.
Assisting in the resolution of conflicts between different representations when plans are issued for consultation.	Not necessary.

IMAGE

### **13. ASSESSMENT OF USER NEEDS**

In accordance with WG Guidance a 12 week consultation period was undertaken to better understand user needs. The results of the consultation exercise are presented in section 11.

The following section outlines the needs of different user groups.

#### **Walkers**

All walkers need a network which is easy to use with adequate and clear signing and waymarking where needed. This is especially true in the case of tourists who are often not familiar with the area and rely on the Ordnance Survey Mapping which shows all routes as if they were clear on the ground. They are dissuaded from walking and this reflects on both County and Town & Community Councils. There has been substantial concern over the number of routes that are obstructed by overgrown vegetation, poor furniture, fences and other problems. Detailed discussions within the Local Access Forum have noted that stiles were often not suitable for the elderly or less-able and many preferred gates or kissing gates as they were easier to negotiate.

The value of the Rights of Way network to the everyday needs of the local community has been emphasised both for leisure and other purposes. The important role that a fully open network can make to the tourist industry and its related employment in the County has also been significant. The council receives both compliments and complaints from visitors to the County, the latter generally where expectations on the ground do not match up to anticipated information from Ordnance Survey (OS) maps etc.

According to the WORS 2016/17 survey walking is the most popular countryside activity. Consequently it is important that the needs of walkers are catered for within this emerging Improvement Plan.

#### **Horse Riders Carriage Drivers**

Horse riders have the right to use bridleways, restricted byways and BOATs, giving them access to 6.7% of the County's PRoW network. However, this access is not evenly distributed across the County. Equestrian off-road access is particularly lacking, but a network of byways, minor road and bridleways exist in Brechfa Forest amounting to circular rides of more than 20 miles.

The equestrian network is fragmented and links on busy roads or rural roads that are local short cuts make them increasingly dangerous for equestrians to use because of the speed and volume of motorised traffic on them. It is hoped that being recognised as vulnerable road users in the Wales Road Safety Delivery Plan will improve the safety of these links in time.



Horse riders require local rides but will box to areas further afield or to avoid busy roads. They are probably the most vulnerable users when sharing routes with vehicles due to the unpredictable nature of their mounts. Riders seek historic routes with natural unsealed surfaces that provide spectacular views or links between communities and countryside access, with minimal gates that are horse friendly and easy to negotiate.

Equestrians improve their own personal health, as well as bringing added economic benefit to Wales by the increased spend as a result of such recreation.

Horse ownership provides and supports work for many in rural areas where local employment is much needed - such as farriers, vets, petrol stations, timber yards, feed merchants, farmers and the livery yards where many of these horses are kept.

The National Equine Database (2012) recorded 34,748 passported horses resident in Wales, 22,000 of these in Carmarthenshire.

Based on the British Equestrian Trade Association's finding that horse owners spend £3,600 annually on their horses this represents an annual investment by horse owners into the economy of £485 million and to Carmarthenshire of £79 million.

Equestrian tourists have to house and feed their horses as well as themselves which doubles the per night spend of any other visitor to the county. With a significant number of active riding and pony clubs in the county and venues for equestrian sport, Carmarthenshire attracts equestrian visitors from neighbouring counties and further afield but more could be done to encourage them to stay longer, to access beaches, forestry and open country.

### **Carriage Drivers**

Carriage drivers have legal access to byways and restricted byways. In Carmarthenshire byways are unsuitable for carriages due to the uneven surfaces and the general state of repair so they are not generally used. They also have access to some NRW forestry which includes Crychan Forest which attracts no fees but similar access to Brechfa Forest is chargeable, with no access at Pembrey Forest despite a successful annual event held in Pembrey Park, bringing carriages from some distance away. It is council policy not to allow equestrians to the park unless attending an organised event. Engagement with local groups is required to identify suitable routes for improvement and access to Council owned land.

Carriage driving can give access to the countryside for users who are unable to use it by other means or who are disabled. They are minority users of the PRoW network and it is rare for new access to cater for them. Carriage drivers predominantly use off road areas and minor roads shared with other users.

### **Cycling**

Cycling has long been a popular and low-cost method of transport in Carmarthenshire and this has been accentuated by improvements to routes forming the National Cycle Network, notably in its off-road sections. Overall, 29 million trips were made during 2011 on the National Cycle Network in Wales, with 85% of users saying that they felt fitter as a result.

At Pwll Pavillion on the Millennium Coastal Path, there have been over 137,000 users in 2017, with 74% cycling and 26% walking. At Pembrey, Canal Waun Sidan, attracted over 48,000 people in 20017, 54% of them cyclists and 46% pedestrians.

Cyclists are entitled to use the same public Rights of Way that are available to horse riders. The Countryside Act 1968 extended rights on bridleways to include cyclists but again within the County the limited available network of Public Rights of Way and problems on some byways have limited opportunities.

Cycling usage is likely to increase outside of the road network and the byways/green lanes could be a useful resource in terms of assisting in meaningful and safe alternatives to busy roads. Where such a resource offers a key strategic or community link and there are no quiet and safe alternative roads then any such improvements to the byways and green roads should take into account a robust and attractive surface which can be used by all types of cycle alongside the other users. Where quiet and secure highways offer easy access, then surfacing shared byways would be less of an issue and these byways should only be considered passable by mountain bike. It would therefore be beneficial to consider a hierarchy of byways and green lanes to meet the varied needs of users.

### **Active Travel**

There are 10 Active Travel towns across Carmarthenshire. In total 128 Active Travel routes fall on to the Rights of Way Network. Appendix 2 illustrates those Active Travel routes that are on the Rights of Way Network.

### **Motorised Users**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), in its consultation paper on mechanically-propelled vehicles and Public Rights of Way, quote a figure from a user group representative of about 15,000 recreational off-road vehicle drivers active in England and Wales. In consultations for the preparation of this ROWIP a number of responses were received from motorised vehicle users and other interested parties within the County. These responses included ensuring that the ROWIP should recognise the rights of these users / riders / drivers to drive / ride along and use routes that are legally available to them. This reflects the economic importance within the tourism industry that these activities can achieve and that such activities should be encouraged within the Plan.

All motorised users of the PROW network must be fully road legal with driving licenses, road fund licenses and valid MOT's for their vehicles. It is also necessary for CCC to continue to encourage provision of suitable off road custom built facilities, properly insured and safe for riders / drivers to use within the County. These facilities should be made available to both non road legal and road legal users.

In the County the main resource available to off-road recreational motorists are unsurfaced County roads and byways. There have been 5 Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) made by the County Council and 3 others are under consideration. TRO's can be used to manage routes where safety concerns arise but will only be used as a last resort when other options have been exhausted.

## Assessment of Future Needs

The Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey (WORS) attempts to measure participation levels and behaviours in outdoor recreation by adults living in Wales, including the associated health and economic benefits. It also covers public attitudes towards biodiversity, along with actions that people take to protect the environment.

It is the largest survey of public engagement with the environment by people living in Wales, with around 6000 people interviewed throughout the year over each full 12 month period. It includes adults of all ages and backgrounds who live in both rural and urban areas.

To date the survey has been undertaken in 2008, 2011 and 2014 and comparison year on year has been used to identify any statistically significant trends in recreational behaviour or demand over that time.

Analysis of the WORS allowed a unique insight in the activity levels, behaviour and attitudes of people in Wales, and this information has been used to help shape and fine tune this Improvement Plan, as demonstrated below in Table 13.1.

**Table 13.1: How this Improvement Plan address the key challenges identified in the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey**

WORS Key Challenges	CCC ROWIP RESPONSE TO KEY CHALLENGES
<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> <b>Increasing frequent participation.</b></p> <p>The survey has found that frequent participation has declined. Although we know that this is associated with the corresponding decrease in 'doorstep' visits, we need to do further work to understand why this is happening. This will help inform action to increase frequent participation in the future.</p>	<p><b>Aim 1: Ensure that the Network is easy to use and accessible.</b></p> <p>By promoting and developing accessibility CCC will ensure that as many people living, working and visiting Carmarthenshire have the opportunity to access the Countryside.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> <b>Supporting older people</b></p> <p>Age has been shown to be one of the key determinants of participation in outdoor recreation, which when combined with an increasingly aging population, highlights the need for more focus on older people.</p> <p>Understanding their activities, preferences, and barriers will help inform more targeted interventions to support and encourage participation.</p>	<p><b>Action 15:</b></p> <p><b>Engage with established advisory groups such as the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition and relevant organisations on opportunities to upgrade the network for people with disabilities and other less able users. Also, take active steps to identify and appoint a LAF member to represent the interests and needs of disabled, elderly and less abled users.</b></p> <p>Action 15 of the ROWIP is specifically designed to improve access for those with reduced</p>

	<p>mobility, including the elderly.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> <b>Supporting women with children</b> ‘Life-stages’ are a key factor in participation, and the survey has found that women with children are an important group. With distinct motivations, levels of physical activity, and challenges, there is a need to consider their outdoor recreation needs to improve opportunities and increase active participation.</p>	<p><b>Action 14:</b> <b>Adopt the policy of Least Restrictive Access and follow the principles of "By All Reasonable Means" using appropriate advice and guidance to improve the accessibility of all countryside access schemes.</b></p> <p>By recognising that different users groups, have different motivations and challenges, Action 14 promotes Least Restrictive Access in an attempt to make the Network as accessible as possible.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 4:</b> <b>Flexible provision for different activities</b> The survey has found that over the years participation in different activities has both increased and decreased. Change in activity preferences is often relatively unpredictable, and can shift rapidly. This highlights the need for recreation provision to be flexible, and where possible to accommodate a diversity of activities on the doorstep.</p>	<p><b>Aim 3: Ensure the opportunities for countryside access are easy to use and enjoyable.</b></p> <p>Aim 3 is designed to ensure that access is provided across a range of different activities and uses, so that flexible provision, capable of responding to changing trends is provided across the County.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 5:</b> <b>Balancing health and economic benefits</b> Outdoor recreation provides benefits for both health and the economy. Health benefits are particularly associated with frequent participation in doorstep activities, whilst economic benefits are derived more from days out to the best of Wales’ iconic coast and mountains. A key challenge is to find the right balance of support for both of these different types of recreation.</p>	<p><b>Action 40:</b> Promote the social, health and economic benefits of walking, riding, and cycling through events and programmes such as the ‘Lets walk Cymru’ Scheme, associated Walk Well Carmarthenshire groups, activity programmes within country parks, the CCC walking and cycling strategy and forthcoming CCC equestrian strategy.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 6:</b> <b>Using outdoor recreation to increase pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours</b> For the first time, the survey has shown that participation in outdoor recreation is linked to attitudes and behaviours that are related to caring for the environment. More work is needed to understand this connection, and to improve future communications to increase awareness</p>	<p><b>Aim 4: Continue to work in partnership with all relevant, interested parties to achieve improved facilities for the Countryside</b></p> <p><b>Aim 5: Maintain and improve the range and quality of public information and make it more widely available in appropriate formats</b></p>

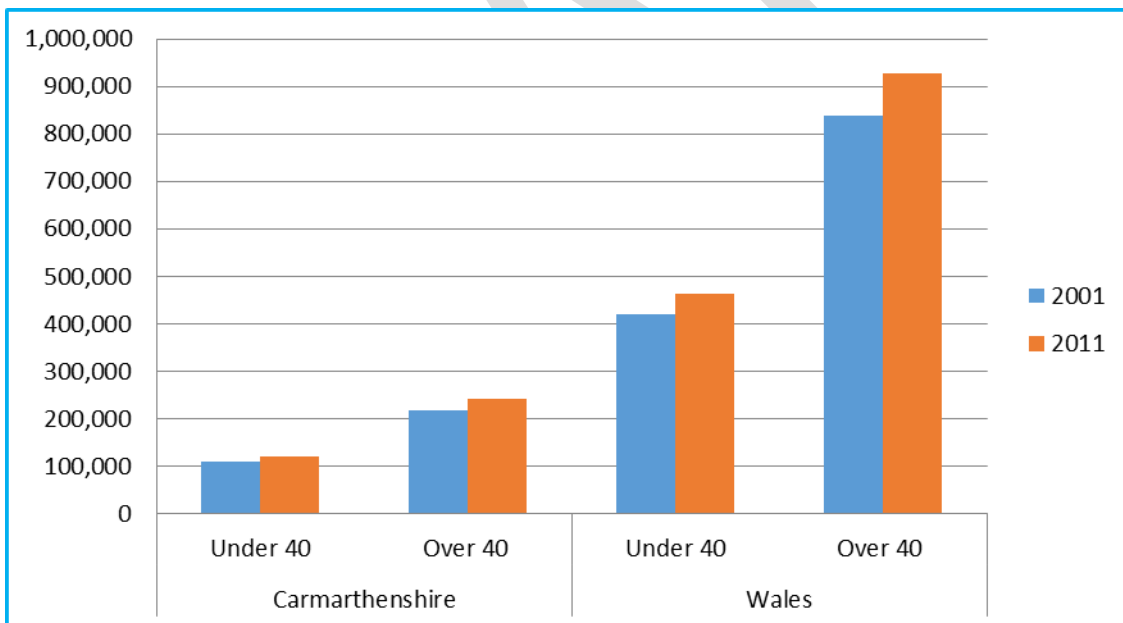
and encourage behaviour that supports the environment.

This Aim is designed to work with volunteers and interested parties to promote and care for the natural environment and engage community groups at a local level.

In addition Aim 5 is designed to improve future communications and to increase awareness of behaviour that supports the environment.

Within the context of this Improvement Plan the WORS survey frames some of the key challenges faced by CCC in terms of attracting more people to countryside. It is known that the County has an aging population, as demonstrated by graph 13.1

**Graph 13.1: Population Age**



According to 2011 Census, the population in Carmarthenshire is ageing. Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people aged between 0 – 39 declined by approximately 3,500, while over the same period of time the number of people aged between 40 and 80 increased by over 9,000.

Within these ages groups there was a decline of 13% for those aged between 30 – 34, and a decline of 14% for those aged between 35 and 39 between 2001 and 2011. In the 60 – 64

age bracket there was an increase of 36%, while the number of people in the 65 – 69 age bracket increased by 27% over the same period.

It is important that the emerging ROWIP contains plans and policies designed to cater for this trend. In addition when developing an Action Plan it is important to understand the barriers that prevent people from accessing the Countryside on a more regular basis.

### **Barriers**

According to the WORS survey for those reporting no visits in the last year, the single most common reason (28%) was a perceived lack of free time, whilst 24% cited physical disability, 19% other health reasons and 19% old age. In contrast, only 2% said there was nowhere suitable for them to go, and 1.7% said they didn't know where to go.

However, there were some significant gender and age-related differences. For older people (over 65), the main barriers were old age (41%) and physical disability (34%). For younger adults (16-44) the main barrier was lack of time (57%). Equally, women were more likely to cite physical disability and old age as their main barrier, whilst for men it was lack of time. For respondents who reported not having made a visit to the outdoors in the last four weeks, the most common reason (46%) was bad weather.

The WORS survey also reports that most visits were relatively short; 50% lasted an hour or less. A substantial majority (77%) were two hours or less.

Whilst the ROWIP can do little to influence issues relating to lack of time or weather, actions can be developed so that facilities to improve access for the elderly and those with reduced mobility are implemented. In addition facilities and attractions that encourage people to stay longer need to be developed and introduced across the rights of way network.

IMAGE

#### **14. EVALUATING THE DELIVERY OF THE PREVIOUS ROWIP**

A comprehensive review of the Actions and Policies contained within the 2007 – 2017 Strategy is presented within Appendix 3 of this report.

IMAGE

## 15. ACTION PLAN, AIMS AND POLICIES

Some of the Action Plan and Policies listed in this section are aspirational. They outline the activities and initiatives that will be introduced and implemented if the relevant funding can be secured.

In reviewing the Rights of Way Network, an opportunity is available to bring together the actions and policies concerned with the network and associated access opportunities. These are included below. Analysis of the work to date has drawn out a series of themes and aims which form the basis for the ROWIP.

### a). Aims

- Aim 1:** Ensure that the Rights of Way network is easy to use and enjoyable.
- A. Rights of Way Improvement
  - B. Rights of Way Maintenance
  - C. Rights of Way Enforcement
  - D. Access for All
- Aim 2:** Provide a reliable, accurate, up to date and widely available digital Definitive Map & Statement.
- A. Maintain progress in updating the Definitive Map
  - B. Produce a digital definitive map
  - C. Lost Ways
- Aim 3:** Ensure the opportunities for countryside access are easy to use and enjoyable.
- A. Countryside Parks
  - B. Open Country
  - C. Picnic Areas & Nature Reserves
  - D. Active Travel
  - E. Coast and Forestry



- Aim 4:** Continue to work in partnership with all relevant, interested parties to achieve improved facilities for Countryside Access.
- A. Promote Partnerships
  - B. Volunteers
- Aim 5:** Promotion – maintain and improve the range and quality of public information on access and PROW, as well as make it more widely available in appropriate formats.
- A. General
  - B. Publicity Material

## **B). POLICIES**

### **POLICY 1:**

Waymarking along a route will be integral to any Rights of Way improvement scheme, together with priority waymarking on routes identified as difficult to follow by users.

### **POLICY 2:**

Develop prioritised improvement programmes by adopting the appropriate scoring system. Scoring systems will guarantee consistency in prioritisation and should take into account the following criteria as a minimum requirement:

- a. Health and Safety concerns
- b. Consideration of Promoted Routes
- c. Under provisioned user groups
- d. Funding Deadlines
- e. Community Council Support
- f. Local Member Support
- g. LAF Support
- h. High levels of public support
- i. Consideration of wider County Council objectives

### **POLICY 3:**

There will be a presumption to leave Rights of Way surfaces in their permeable / natural state other than those selected as priority routes for people with limited mobility or where ground conditions make it essential for reasonable access.

### **POLICY 4:**

The Council will work with landowners and land managers to improve access for all by adopting a “least restrictive option” for all amendments to the network and a pro-active approach on improvement to selected routes. This will comprise the order of a gap, gate, then stile, subject to the essential needs for stock management and the liabilities of the landowner for the structures.

### **POLICY 5:**

Where applications are made for new furniture, there will be a presumption that structures will be kept to a minimum.

- Structures which are authorised will provide the least restrictive option for users unless there are over-whelming stock management reasons for a less accessible option to be permitted.
- On footpaths there will be a presumption in favour of the use of gates.
- On bridleways there will be a presumption in favour of bridle gates fitted with bridle latches.

**POLICY 6:**

Produce an Equestrian Strategy designed to promote and develop an accessible network for equestrian use.

**POLICY 7:**

Develop prioritised annual maintenance programmes by adopting the appropriate scoring system. Scoring systems will guarantee consistency in prioritisation and should take into account the following criteria as a minimum requirement:

- a. Health and Safety concerns
- b. Consideration of Promoted Routes
- c. Under provisioned user groups
- d. Funding Deadlines
- e. Community Council Support
- f. Local Member Support
- g. LAF Support
- h. High levels of public support
- i. Consideration of wider County Council objectives

**POLICY 8:**

Routes which carry both public and private rights of access - CCC will undertake maintenance of Public Rights of Way according to the demand and needs of the public in accordance with the prioritised matrix.

Private rights and/or easements which may exist in conjunction with a Public Right of Way will not be a maintenance consideration.

**POLICY 9:**

CCC will consider applications from third parties to change the surface of a Right of Way subject to a compatible approach, future maintenance commitments and a review of its impact on other users.

**POLICY 10:**

CCC will work constructively with Landowners to resolve Public Rights of Way disputes / issues before resulting to legal recourse.

**POLICY 11:**

Keep CAMS up to date with all enforcement matters reported/surveyed (e.g. obstruction [natural/manmade], missing signs/misleading signs, dangerous livestock/landowners etc.) to be dealt with in line with the Enforcement Protocol.

**POLICY 12:**

Prosecution will be considered on repeat offences, where the authority is prevented from taking direct action on a Right of Way or where a landowner/occupier fails to apply for a diversion to remedy a particular obstruction.

**POLICY 13:**

Recover from applicants for temporary closures the full cost of advertising and any other associated costs to the Council.

**POLICY 14:**

Diversion orders will only be considered by the Council where it is shown to be the most cost effective and practical means of resolving historic / long standing problems on a Public Right of Way. Diverted routes are to be clearly way marked prior to Order coming into force and the cost of Orders to be covered by the landowner if they are the inherent cause.

**POLICY 15:**

Retain, review and enhance (wherever possible and in agreement with landowners) suitable opportunities, as identified by user groups, for country-side access for those with limited mobility and other impairments.

**POLICY 16:**

Use approved scoring matrix to define Public Path Order priorities which give consideration to such criteria as H&S, reduced maintenance burden, threat from development, benefit to network, political support and wider Council strategies/policies.

**POLICY 17:**

Use approved scoring matrix to define Definitive Map Modification Order priorities which give consideration to such criteria as age of application, quality/validity of application, political support, and threat from development and value to network.

**POLICY 18:**

Applicants will be required to pay for the costs of diversions/extinguishments together with the cost of works required to open the new route.

**POLICY 19:**

Applications for Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) Orders should be received, considered and ideally a resolution to make the Order reached before construction commences.

TCPA Diversions will only be permitted where it can be proven that a PRoW must be diverted to enable the development to be carried out and where an acceptable and comparable alternative route will be provided.

**POLICY 20:**

Unauthorised construction activity that obstructs a Right of Way will be considered as an obstruction and dealt with under the enforcement policy/protocol.

**POLICY 21:**

Use of permissive routes will be limited and only progressed where there are substantial short term benefits involving minimal expenditure.

**POLICY 22:**

Work closely with other divisions within both the Highways and Transportation service and the Leisure service and use joined up working and collaborative planning to better enforce, fund, improve and promote the PRow network.

**POLICY 23:**

Continue to promote and encourage responsible use of the countryside and respect for those that live and work in the countryside.

**POLICY 24:**

Actively encourage participation in countryside access from all sections of society using all widely accessible forms of promotion to maximise reach.

DRAFT

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>A. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT</b>					
<b>ACTION 1A:</b> To increase the proportion of PROW that are open, easy to use and well signed by reopening and improving a minimum of 100km p.a (4.6% of network)	High	£150k	No ROWIP funding lost	2021	CCC NRW
<b>ACTION 1B:</b> To increase the proportion of PROW that are open, easy to use and well signed by reopening and improving a minimum of 200km p.a	Low	£300k	No	2028	CCC NRW
<b>ACTION 2:</b> Seek to maintain current 2017 Countryside Access budget allocation plus inflation over the 10 year period of this Strategy.	High	£50K	Yes	2021	CCC
<b>ACTION 3:</b> Ensure that the Wales Coastal Path is maintained to highest possible standard in conjunction with Powys and Ceredigion utilising the Coast Path Officer jointly appointed for the role, and look to improve appropriate sections to provide access for all.	High	£50k	Yes	2021	CCC WG NRW Powys CC Ceredigion CC
<b>ACTION 4a:</b> Bridleways, Byways & Green Roads (U/C roads) – work with Byway User Group, BHS and other user groups to improve selected highways, byways, bridleways and other suitable access land for	High	£32k	No - £16k awarded for works to Byways and UCR's. No specific Bridleway funding.	2021	CCC BHS User Groups

equestrian users.					
<b>ACTION 4b:</b> Explore opportunities to develop regional Equestrian Trails and additional equestrian routes within Carmarthenshire as more money is made available.	Medium	£15k	No	2024	CCC BHS User Groups

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>B. RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE</b>					
<b>ACTION 5:</b> Improve performance on signposting to increase use of rights of way "Easy to Use"	High	£12.5k	Yes	2021	CCC User Groups
<b>ACTION 6:</b> Annual Community Maintenance will be prioritised by the Countryside Access team.  Town/Community Councils will be approached by the Countryside Access unit requesting that they to exercise their powers of PRow maintenance within their council area.	High	>£50k	No Community Council assistance will increase achievability of this action.	2021	CCC Town & Community Councils Local Access Forum User Groups

<p><b>ACTION 7:</b></p> <p>Seek additional maintenance funding to enable a long term, sustainable, high quality access network, in conjunction with neighbouring Welsh authorities.</p>	High	£50k	N/A	2021	CCC WG PCC BBNP SCC PCC NPT CCC
<p><b>ACTION 8:</b></p> <p>To ensure that all existing promoted Strategic Trails and County Walks are open, available, well maintained, signed and waymarked. Subject all walks and trails to annual review taking account of quality, suitability, popularity and resources available.</p>	High	£10k - £50k	Yes	2021	CCC User Groups
<p><b>ACTION 9:</b></p> <p>Byways/U/c Highways subject to Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders – In conjunction with the Carmarthenshire Byways User Group and other relevant user groups, work to ensure that all Byways &amp; U/C Highways where vehicular rights have been permanently restricted continue to be maintained and are kept open and available for remaining lawful users within resources available.</p>	Medium	£10k - £50k	Yes – where possible	2024	CCC BHS
<p><b>ACTION 10:</b></p> <p>Bridleways – Continue to work towards a target of 100% open and</p>	High	£10k	Yes	2021	CCC BHS

easy to use network of bridleways in the County.					User Groups
<b>ACTION 11:</b> Clearance and improvement of suitable, selected byways/"green roads" in consultation with user groups subject to ongoing funding.	High	£16k	Yes	2021	CCC User Groups

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (inc. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>C. RIGHTS OF WAY ENFORCEMENT</b>					
<b>ACTION 12:</b> Define an Enforcement Protocol for policies/procedures to assert and protect the rights of the public where discussion, negotiation, goodwill and cooperation have failed by 2020.	High	£18k	Yes	2021	CCC
<b>ACTION 13:</b> Use approved scoring matrix to define enforcement priorities such as Health & Safety considerations and/or Benefit to the Public, to ensure issues are dealt with fairly and in a timely manner in accordance with agreed criteria.	High	£4k	Yes	2021	CCC



Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>D. ACCESS FOR ALL</b>					
<b>ACTION 14:</b> Adopt the policy of Least Restrictive Access and follow the principles of "By All Reasonable Means" using appropriate advice and guidance to improve the accessibility of all countryside access schemes.	High	£20k	Yes	2021	CCC Partners
<b>ACTION 15:</b> Engage with established advisory groups such as the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition and relevant organisations on opportunities to upgrade the network for people with disabilities and other less able users. Also, take active steps to identify and appoint a LAF member to represent the interests and needs of disabled, elderly and less abled users.	Medium	£2k	Yes	2024	CCC Local Access Forum

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP &amp; STATEMENT</b>					
<b>A. MAINTAIN PROGRESS IN UPDATING THE DEFINITIVE MAP</b>					
<b>ACTION 16:</b> Improve 2007-2017 performance by processing total 40 orders p.a. to Order making stage (to include both Public Path Orders - diversions, creations, extinguishments & Modification Orders – route claims, route anomalies, deletions)	High	£30k	Yes	2021	CCC
<b>ACTION 17:</b> Improve annual Order making performance to 45-50 Orders pa with those Orders being predominantly outstanding DMMO's.	High	> £50k	No	2021	CCC
<b>ACTION 18:</b> Carry out a review of the appropriate costs to be charged for orders. Initial review to be completed Nov 2017 with charges to be reviewed every year thereon.	High	£2k	Yes	2021	CCC

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP &amp; STATEMENT</b>					
<b>B. PRODUCE A DIGITAL DEFINITIVE MAP</b>					
<b>Action 19:</b> Continue to work towards 100% audit of digital map of PRow (CAMS) though ongoing continuous review of digital PRow layer.	Medium	£15k	Yes	2024	CCC

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP &amp; STATEMENT</b>					
<b>C. LOST WAYS</b>					
<b>Action 20:</b> Consider evidence received for Modification Orders to add unregistered historic Rights of Way to the Definitive Map and Statement as a matter of priority.	High	£10k	Yes	2021	CCC

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>A. COUNTRYSIDE PARKS</b>					
<b>Action 21:</b>	High	£2k	Yes	2021	

CCC will continue to promote the Councils Country Parks as facilities for the public to access					CCC NRW
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Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>B. OPEN COUNTRY</b>					
<b>Action 22:</b> To ensure all maintained or improved points of public access to blocks of access land are signed appropriately with the national access symbols.	Low	£1k	Yes	2028	CCC NRW Local Access Forum User Groups

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>C. PICNIC AREAS &amp; NATURE RESERVES</b>					
<b>Action 23:</b> Maintain existing picnic sites and nature reserves remaining under the care of the local authority / countryside access care team and ensure that robust maintenance arrangements are put in place to ensure all sites remain in good order.	Medium	£15k	Yes	2024	CCC Partners

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (inc. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>D. ACTIVE TRAVEL</b>					
<b>ACTION 24:</b> Develop and maintain cycleways in accordance with Carmarthenshire Cycle Strategy and the Active Travel Act.	Medium/High	£100k	Yes	2021/2024	CCC WG Sustrans User Groups
<b>ACTION 25:</b> Provide regular advice to and actively engage with the Transport Strategy and Infrastructure team in schemes being developed under Active Travel and/or the Walking and Cycling Strategy.	High	£1.5k	Yes	2021	CCC WG Sustrans User Groups

Actions	Cost per annum	Priority H/ M/ L	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b>					
<b>E. COAST AND FORESTRY</b>					
<b>ACTION 26:</b> Work with partner organisations and relevant stakeholders to maximise access to coast and forestry for as many	£2k	High	Yes	2021	CCC

user groups as possible, making efforts to improve access to those underrepresented in other areas of the access network.					NRW Private Forestry Managers The Crown Estate Private Landowners
<b>ACTION 27:</b> Incorporate in publicity which areas of open access forestry and coastline are available to which user groups.	£1k	High	Yes	2021	CCC NRW

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 4: WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL RELEVANT INTERESTED PARTIES TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS</b>					
<b>A. PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS</b>					
<b>ACTION 28:</b> Continue to carry out surveys of the access network on a community by community basis in conjunction with local councils and volunteer groups.	Medium	£30k	Yes	2024	CCC Town & Community Councils

					Local Ramblers
<p><b>ACTION 29:</b></p> <p>Continue to promote partnerships with community councils, landowners/occupiers and other public and private organisations, to maximise resources available for improved countryside access.</p>	High	£5k	Yes	2021	CCC Town & Community Councils Local Access Forum NRW National Trust
<p><b>ACTION 30:</b></p> <p>Secure s.106 funding for improvements to Rights of Way and for the development of wider access opportunities for all, to meet the needs generated by new development.</p>	High	£2k	Yes	2021	CCC Developers
<p><b>ACTION 31:</b></p> <p>Continue to work in conjunction with agri-environment schemes to achieve long term improvements and carry out enforcement on the access network.</p>	High	£10k	Yes	2021	CCC NRW WG
<p><b>ACTION 32:</b></p> <p>Continue to work jointly to promote a more sustainable use of the PRoW network through links with public transport providers e.g. development of train and/or bus walks.</p>	Medium	£4k	Yes	2024	CCC Transport Providers
<p><b>ACTION 33:</b></p> <p>Continue to liaise with BHS and other horse riding groups to improve equine provision and joint working with off road driving</p>	High	£4k	Yes	2021	CCC BHS

organisations such as the TRF and Tread Lightly to identify off road driving opportunities in the County.					TRF Green Lane Association Treadlightly
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Priority H/ M/ L</b>	<b>Estimated Cost per annum</b>	<b>Within available resources (incl. grants)</b>	<b>Target / Date</b>	<b>Lead Body / Partners</b>
<b>AIM 4: WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS</b>					
<b>B. VOLUNTEERS</b>					
<b>ACTION 34:</b>  Maximise use of local organised voluntary groups and volunteers for the preparation for and provision of improvement and maintenance programmes on the PRow network.	High	Up to £50k	Yes	2021	CCC NRW User Groups Ramblers Keep Wales Tidy Pride in Your Patch



Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 5 – PROMOTION – MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, WIDELY AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE FORMATS</b>					
<b>A. GENERAL</b>					
<b>ACTION 35:</b> Work with relevant departments and agencies to improve opportunities for countryside access for people living in areas of deprivation.	Medium	£5k	Yes	2024	CCC Partners

Actions	Priority H/ M/ L	Estimated Cost per annum	Within available resources (incl. grants)	Target / Date	Lead Body / Partners
<b>AIM 5 – PROMOTION – MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, WIDELY AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE FORMATS</b>					
<b>B. PUBLICITY MATERIAL</b>					
<b>ACTION 36:</b>	High	£3k	Yes	2021	CCC

Provide up to date promotional material for promoted Rights of Way.					
<b>ACTION 37:</b> Alongside NRW guidebooks and online promotion of the WCP, ensure the information on the CCC website for the Carmarthenshire section of the WCP is up to date and accurate.	High	£2k	Yes	2021	CCC NRW
<b>ACTION 38:</b> Ensure that all promotional material relating to current County Walks are kept up to date by ongoing review.	High	£5k	Yes	2021	CCC
<b>ACTION 39:</b> Consider creating new County Walks or reintroducing previously promoted walks where a need is identified by local people or user groups and when sufficient resource to create, improve, maintain and promote additional routes is available.	Low	£20k	No	2028	CCC
<b>ACTION 40:</b> Further improve the County Council website by providing information on countryside access opportunities and for all users, including:  a) Improved general information for public and landowners. b) Application packs for DMMO's (claims) and PPO's (diversions, extinguishments etc.)  c) Online complaints forms  d) Online register of DMMO & PPO applications and s31(6) deposits.  Also, work to improve information relating to the Carmarthenshire	High	£5k	Yes/No	2021	CCC Local Access Forum

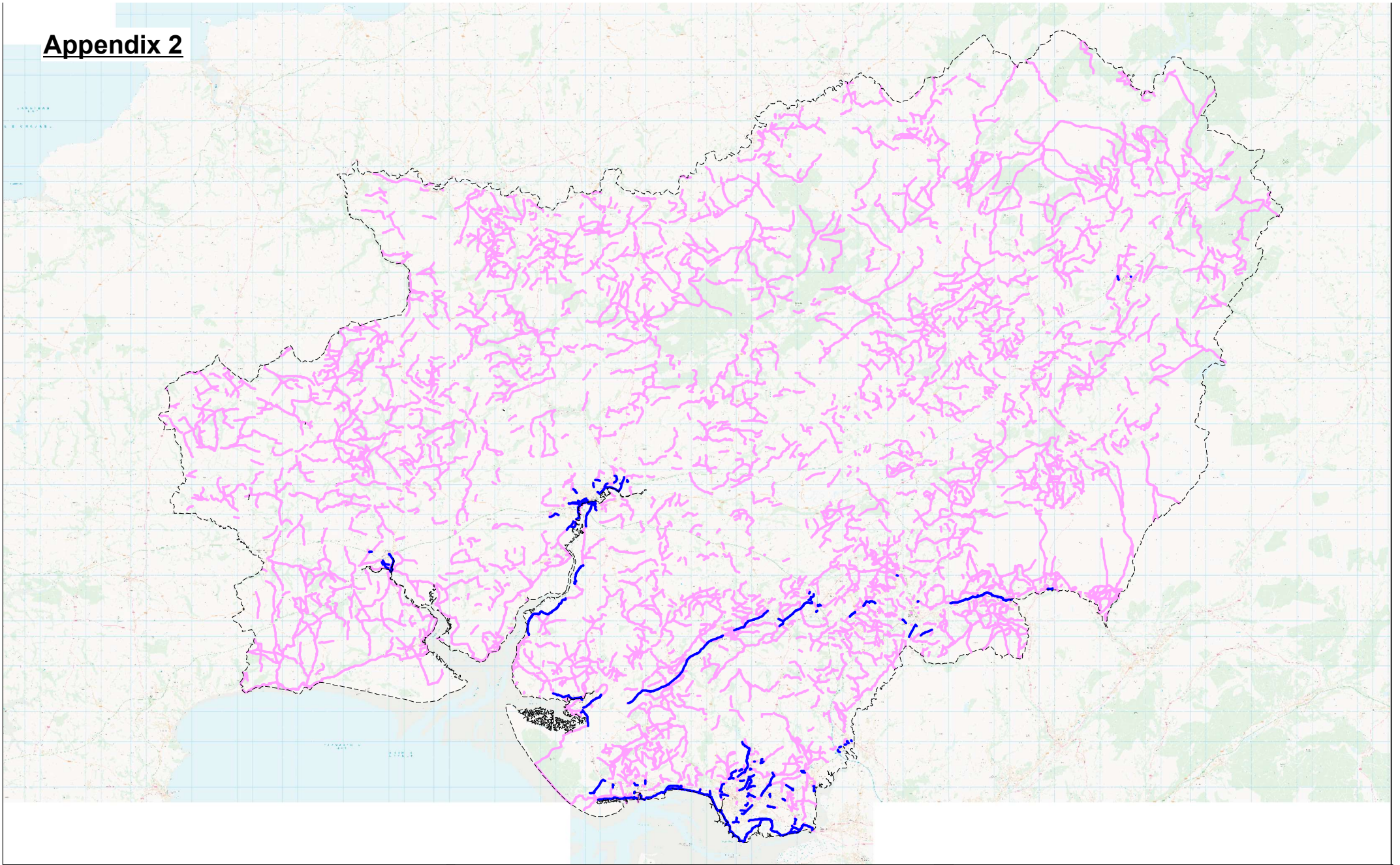
<p>LAF by:</p> <p>a) Adding more general information</p> <p>b) Publication of meeting minutes</p> <p>c) Providing updates of meetings and venues</p>					
<p><b>ACTION 41:</b></p> <p>Supply regular information regarding improved horse riding, equestrian and tourism opportunities in the County to local BHS representative, Carmarthenshire Riders and other similar groups to be included in their promotional materials. Encourage wide circulation of promotional materials.</p>	High	£2k	Yes	2021	CCC
<p><b>ACTION 42:</b></p> <p>Provide information regarding opportunities for those with limited mobility and other impairments to groups such as the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition to be included in their promotional materials. Encourage wide circulation of promotional materials.</p>	High	£2k	Yes	2021	CCC Partners
<p><b>ACTION 43:</b></p> <p>Promote the social, health and economic benefits of walking, riding, and cycling through events and programmes such as the 'Lets walk Cymru' Scheme, associated Walk Well Carmarthenshire groups, activity programmes within country parks, the CCC walking and cycling strategy and forthcoming CCC equestrian strategy.</p>	Medium	£4k	Yes	2024	CCC

## Appendix 1

### Participating Town & Community Council




<b>T/CC</b>	<b>Footpath</b>	<b>Bridleway</b>	<b>Byway Open to All Traffic</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Laugharne Town	18,090	1,770	187	20,048
Llanddarog	9,849			9,849
Llandybie	78,174	1,660	3,050	82,885
Llangyndeyrn	79,039	2,755	924	82,718
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>185,152</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>4,161</b>	<b>195,499</b>

## Appendix 2



### Active Travel Routes on the RoW Network

#### Legend

-  CCC Boundary
-  Rights of Way (RoW) Network
-  Active Travel Routes on RoW Network

**CAPITA**



## Appendix 3

<b>2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW</b> <b>AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b> <b>A. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT</b>	
<b>ACTION 1A:</b> To increase the proportion of PROW that are open, easy to use and well signed by reopening and improving a minimum of 150km p.a. (7% of network).	78.4% of action achieved with varying Countryside Access staffing levels over 10 year period
<b>ACTION 1B:</b> To increase the proportion of PROW that are open, easy to use and well signed by reopening and improving a minimum of 300km p. a. (14% of network).	No
<b>ACTION 2:</b> Seek to maintain an average capital budget allocation of £225k pa for Access network improvements by continued bids to the Capital Programme.	No
<b>ACTION 3:</b> To complete the Carmarthen Coast Trail and improve appropriate sections for all users as a part of the WAG Coastal Access Improvement Programme for an All-Wales Coastal Path.	Wales Coastal Path Completed
<b>ACTION 4:</b> Bridleways, Byways & Green Roads (U/C roads) – work with BHS and other user groups to achieve a programme of regional Horse Trails/equestrian routes on selected highways, byways, bridleways and other suitable access land.	Since 2007 in excess of 40 Bridleways, and 26 BOATs/Unclassified Roads have been opened up. Roads have been opened up.  In completing these works close working relationships have been developed with the local BHS representative, Carmarthenshire Riders, Tread Lightly and CCC Highways to prioritise routes and fund works.  Cothi Trail (a multi user route) was developed in partnership with the NT and NRW.
<b>ACTION 5:</b> Waymarking along a route will be integral to any rights of way improvement scheme, together with priority waymarking on routes identified as difficult to follow by users.	Ongoing

<p><b>POLICY 1:</b> In consultation with Town &amp; Community Councils, user groups and others, base improvement programmes on priority routes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reduce any danger to the public.</li> <li>b. Provide strategic links and opportunities for promoted routes to benefit the economy of the County.</li> <li>c. Complement the existing set of County Walks and Trails.</li> <li>d. Benefit most users (actual or potential) based on levels of use of the right of way.</li> <li>e. Provide cost- effective use of resources.</li> <li>f. Benefit where possible those with limited mobility.</li> <li>g. Integrate with public transport provision.</li> <li>h. Provide access to Open Country and urban commons.</li> </ul>	<p>Scoring matrices have been developed based on Policy 1 criteria (a-f), taking into account the views of Community Councils, Local Elected Members and the Carmarthenshire LAF.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 2:</b> There will be a presumption to leave rights of way surfaces in their natural state other than those selected as priority routes for people with limited mobility or where ground conditions make it essential for reasonable access.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>POLICY 3:</b> The Council will work with landowners and land managers to improve access for all by adopting a “least restrictive option” for all amendments to the network and a pro-active approach on improvement to selected routes. This will comprise the order of a gap, gate, then stile, subject to the essential needs for stock management and the liabilities of the landowner for the structures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>POLICY 4:</b> Where applications are made for new furniture, there will be a presumption that structures will be kept to a minimum. On footpaths there will be a presumption in favour of use of gates, unless there are overwhelming stock management reasons for stiles to be permitted.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**  
**B. RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

<p><b>ACTION 6A:</b>          Improve performance on signposting to raise % of rights of way “Easy to Use”</p>	<p>Signposting performance improved by 63.%, process ongoing</p>
<p><b>ACTION 6B:</b>          Enhanced programme of signposting to speed up and extend baseline programme.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>ACTION 7:</b>          Encourage Town &amp; Community Councils to cover maintenance of routes in their area on a priority basis, with grant assistance from CCC.</p>	<p><b><u>2007-2010</u></b>          Approx. 20 Community Councils undertook their own maintenance with the Rangers Service undertaking the remainder.</p> <p><b><u>2010 onwards</u></b>          Maintenance taken back from Comm Cls to be undertaken by Rangers Service (4 new Rangers recruited in preparation for change). 67 Community Council areas maintained by Rangers Service with larger Urban Comm Cls. (x5) retaining delegated maintenance responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 8:</b>          Review the Community Programme with Town &amp; Community Councils in order to establish a robust long-term maintenance system.</p>	<p>Community Programme ended 2010, see Action 7 above.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 9:</b>          Seek additional maintenance funding to enable a long term, sustainable, high quality access network, in conjunction with other Welsh authorities.</p>	<p>Coast Path Officer post has been created and funded in conjunction with Powys and Ceredigion CC's</p>
<p><b>ACTION 10:</b>          To ensure that all existing promoted Strategic Trails and County Walks are open and available and well maintained, signed &amp; waymarked.</p>	<p>Routes are prioritised but funding and staff resource has limited standards of maintenance.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 11:</b>          Byways/U/c Highways – work with BHS and other user groups to ensure that all Byways &amp; U/C Highways where vehicular rights have been permanently restricted by legal orders are open and available for use.</p>	<p>Works undertaken in this regard however as part of Action 4 not 11.</p>



<p><b>ACTION 12:</b> Bridleways – Ensure that all bridleways are open and available for use.</p>	<p>No. of BR's open and easy to use have increased</p>
<p><b>ACTION 13:</b> To carry out further research into vehicular access to the country-side in the Cambrian Mountains and other potential pressure areas</p>	<p>Cambrian Mtn Project commenced in 2007 looking to identify sustainable vehicular routes across the Cambrian Mountains.</p> <p>(Joint working with Powys &amp; Ceredigion)</p> <p>Phase 1 report completed 2012 which mapped 650km of routes identified as suitable for vehicular use. Traffic light system applied to those routes for suitability - 5% classed as sustainable and 1% as legally available vehicular highways at the time.</p> <p>Next stage was to process DMMO applications in respect of the 5% of routes potentially carrying vehicular rights, no applications ever received for Carms. Project ceased 2012.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 14:</b> Completion of survey on byways/"green roads" to define potential programme for clearance of suitable selected routes in consultation with user groups.</p>	<p>Work completed on selected vehicular routes in consultation with/following requests from user groups. Entire network survey not carried out and maintenance passed back to Highways who programme works.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 5:</b> In consultation with Town &amp; Community Councils, user groups and others, target annual Community Programme maintenance on priority routes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Present a danger to the public.</li> <li>ii. Benefit most users,(actual or potential) based on levels of use of the rights of way..</li> <li>iii. Provide links in and around towns &amp; villages and promoted routes.</li> <li>iv. Benefit where possible those with limited mobility.</li> <li>v. Form part of a promoted County route.</li> <li>vi. Provide access to Open Country.</li> </ul>	<p>Maintenance has been largely prioritised according to ROWIP policy 5. Access to open country to a lesser extent, higher demand for PROW network away from Open Access land in the County.</p> <p>Scoring matrices have been developed largely based on Policy 5 criteria (i-vi), taking into account the views of Community Councils, Local Elected Members and the Carmarthenshire LAF.</p>

<p><b>POLICY 6:</b> CCC will maintain rights of way in proportion to the relative public and private use which exists.</p>	<p>Yes, reflected in scoring matrix criteria</p>
<p><b>POLICY 7:</b> CCC will not consent to third parties changing the surface type of a right of way, unless the new surface is compatible with the public use and liability for future maintenance rests with the third party.</p>	<p>Where unit has been aware of re-surfacing works on PROWs consent has been awarded once specifications have been agreed. Cases of re-surfacing have gone unobserved, highlighting need for better promotion of landowner requirements in this regard. Ongoing liability for maintenance has not been addressed.</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**  
**C. RIGHTS OF WAY ENFORCEMENT**

<p><b>ACTION 15:</b>  Define an Enforcement Protocol for policies/procedures to assert and protect the rights of the public where discussion, negotiation, goodwill and cooperation have failed within a reasonable timescale.</p>	<p>Enforcement has been inconsistent in approach with no definite protocol or policy in place.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 8:</b>  Remedying issues on rights of way will be firmly based on discussion, negotiation, goodwill and cooperation between the Council and landowners with a view to resolving issues amicably.</p>	<p>Yes, an ongoing and successful policy.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 9:</b>  Produce and keep up to date a register of complaints, (e.g. obstruction [natural/manmade], missing signs/misleading signs, dangerous livestock/landowners etc.) to be dealt with in line with the Enforcement Protocol.</p>	<p>Yes, CAMS system used for this purpose, not 100% complete to date but ongoing</p>
<p><b>POLICY 10:</b>  Prosecution will be considered on repeat offences, where the authority is prevented from taking direct action on a right of way or where a landowner/occupier fails to apply for a diversion to remedy a particular obstruction</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>POLICY 11:</b>  Recover from applicants for temporary closures the full cost of advertising and any other associated costs to the Council.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>POLICY 12:</b>  Diversion orders will only be considered by the Council where it is shown to be the most cost effective and practical means of resolving a problem on a right of way. Diverted route to be clearly marked prior to Order coming into force.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 1: ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK IS EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**  
**D. ACCESS FOR ALL**

<p><b>ACTION 16:</b>          Adopt the policy of Least Restrictive Access and follow the 6 broad principles of “By All Reasonable Means” in all countryside access schemes. (See para. 2.65 above).</p>	<p>Yes, this policy is applied where we have cooperation with landowners.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 17:</b>          Establish an Advisory Group on opportunities to upgrade the network for people with disabilities and other less mobile users.</p>	<p>Discussion has only taken place in this respect through the LAF &amp; Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 18:</b>          Retain, review and enhance (wherever possible and in agreement with landowners) suitable opportunities for country-side access for those with limited mobility and other impairments.</p>	<p>Yes, those routes identified as appropriate for limited mobility access have been enhanced in conjunction with relevant landowners.</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP & STATEMENT**  
**A. MAINTAIN PROGRESS IN UPDATING THE DEFINITIVE MAP.**

<p><b>ACTION 19:</b> As a minimum, improve performance 1996-2006 by 50% by processing total 40 orders p.a. to order-making stage (Public Path Orders (PPO's)-diversions, creations, extinguishments &amp; Modification Orders new Def Maps claims/anomalies).</p>	<p>Order output has been inconsistent. Staff changes/reductions has had a severe impact on improvement figure. Average performance 2007-2017 amounts to 15 Orders per annum</p>
<p><b>ACTION 20:</b> Improve performance to at least 60 orders pa to order-making stage (PPO's – diversions, creations, extinguishments &amp; Modification Orders new Def Maps claims/anomalies).</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>ACTION 21:</b> Carry out a review of the appropriate costs to be charged for orders.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>POLICY 13:</b> In the making of Public Path Orders, give priority to: 1. Anomalies that result in use of the right of way being prevented. 2. Bridleways and byways which connect up existing equestrian networks.</p>	<p>Public Path Orders (PPO's) have been prioritised according to the 2 criteria named in this policy and additional criteria not outlined such as political pressures/support (WCP), reducing maintenance liabilities, H&amp;S and wider public benefit. Scoring matrix to prioritise PPO's now developed and in process of being applied to new PPO applications as well as backlog.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 14:</b> In the making of Modification Orders, deal with in order of receipt but give priority to: a. Claimed routes threatened by development. b. Routes where a Creation Agreement offers a speedier resolution of the issue. c. Bridleways and byways which connect up existing equestrian networks</p>	<p>Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's) have been prioritised according to the criteria named in this policy and additional criteria not outlined such as quality/validity of application, political pressures/support, value to network and public benefit. Scoring matrix to prioritise DMMO's now developed and in will be applied to new DMMO applications as well as backlog.</p>

<p><b>POLICY 15:</b> Applicants will be required to pay for the costs of diversions/extinguishments together with the cost of works required to open the new route.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>POLICY 16:</b> TCPA at diversions or stopping up should ideally be confirmed before construction commences, in order to reduce potential problems. Diversions will only be permitted where it can be proven that it must be diverted to enable the devt. to be carried out and where an acceptable alternative route is provided. Stopping up of rights of way will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. Together with the cost of works required to open the new route.</p>	<p>Working practices have improved in relation to TCPA Orders with a push towards earlier receipt of Diversion/Stopping Up applications and approval of proposals before construction commences. This does not yet happen in all cases but a large proportion of development sites are compliant with this revised system.</p>
<p><b>POLICY 17:</b> Any construction site that obstructs a right of way will be considered as an obstruction and dealt with under the enforcement policy/protocol.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>POLICY 18:</b> Use of permissive routes will be limited and only progressed where there are substantial short term benefits involving minimal expenditure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP & STATEMENT**  
**B. PRODUCE A DIGITAL DEFINITIVE MAP**

<p><b>ACTION 22:</b> Accurately digitise 100% of the public rights of way network</p>	<p>Network has been 100% digitised and published online but with a disclaimer as it is not fully audited.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 23:</b> Make digital version of Def. Map available on website</p>	<p>Digital PRow map published online but not definitive.</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 2: PROVIDE A RELIABLE, ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND WIDELY AVAILABLE DEFINITIVE MAP & STATEMENT**  
**C. LOST WAYS**

<p><b>ACTION 24:</b> Carry out pro-active research and consider evidence for claims for Modification Orders for unregistered historic rights of way.</p>	<p>Not pro-active, available staff resource has been concentrated on dealing with DMMO backlog and formal applications.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 25:</b> Maintain current standards in meeting 95% of search requests within 5 days.</p>	<p>Searches performance reduced to an average of 90.4% due to loss of the Searches Assistant in 2009. Performance has improved in recent years with the average 5 day return figure between March 2015 and March 2017 being 99%</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**  
**A. COUNTRYSIDE PARKS**

<p><b>ACTION 26:</b>  Pembrey Country Park – implement improvement programme inc. new visitor centre, better catering facilities and extended activities.</p>	<p>Works to improve all facilities commenced 2016</p>
<p><b>ACTION 27:</b>  Gelli Aur Country Park – seek long-term future and improvement programme for the country park in agreement with new owners.</p>	<p>No, Gelli Aur now in private ownership. Owner working with Visit Wales to provide some public access</p>
<p><b>ACTION 28:</b>  Llyn Llech Owain Country Park – completion of improvement programme for walkers, horseriders, and cyclists and associated environmental improvements.</p>	<p>Improved access for all throughout park. Continuing environmental improvements in conjunction with NRW.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 29:</b>  Millennium Coastal Park – maintain/improve opportunities for countryside access &amp; water-based recreation.</p>	<p>Access and water based recreation opportunities have been improved, work is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>Action 30:</b>  Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park – small scale improvements to access facilities as opportunities allow.</p>	<p>Improved access for all throughout park. Developed equestrian cross country course and all weather arena.  Developed outdoor activity areas such as a climbing wall and a mountain bike course (off road and street).  Made environmental improvements such as scrub clearance for Skylarks.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 31:</b>  Gelliwerdd Park (Glanamman) / Allt Nant y Ci (Saron)</p>	<p>Gelliwerdd Park - Improved access for all.  Developed off road mountain bike course. Improved interpretation materials on site.  Allt Nant y Ci – Improved access for all.  Installed Life Trail (outdoor gym) equipment and mountain bike course.  Installed bird hide and viewing platform.</p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B. OPEN COUNTRY</b></p>	
<p><b>ACTION 32:</b> To ensure that at least one point of public access is available to each block of Access Land/Urban Common</p>	Not an active priority at present
<p><b>ACTION 33:</b> To ensure that all available and open exits and entrances to blocks of access land are signed with the national access symbols.</p>	Not an active priority at present. Some access waymarking has been undertaken where work has been carried out on PRowS surrounding open access land. However signing has been minimal as it has been reported to be misleading (especially negative Open Access signage)
<p><b>POLICY 19:</b> Give priority in maintenance and improvement programmes to ROW that provide opportunities for access to open country. (See Impt. A.3 &amp; Mtce B.4 above).</p>	Not been an active priority.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C. PICNIC AREAS AND NATURE RESERVES</b></p>	
<p><b>ACTION 34:</b> Maintain existing picnic areas and nature reserves and consider suitable limited additional facilities.</p>	Ongoing maintenance. Currently discussions taking place surrounding asset transfer of sites to Comm. Councils

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 3 – ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ARE EASY TO USE AND ENJOYABLE**  
**D. CYCLING**

<p><b>ACTION 35:</b>  Maintain existing cycleways in the country to meet the needs of cyclists and other users.</p>	<p>Ongoing maintenance in partnership with Sustrans and Technical Services.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 36:</b>  Priority to be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Completing the Amman Valley cycleway</li> <li>b. Developing key missing links in the network between Ammanford and Cross Hands;</li> <li>c. Developing key missing links in the network between Nantgaredig &amp; Whitemill in the Tywi Valley.</li> <li>d. Complete the three mountain biking trails in Brechfa and assist in the development of this area as a Centre of Excellence.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 4: WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS**  
**A. PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS**

<p><b>ACTION 37:</b> Continue to carry out pro-active surveys of the access network on a community by community basis in conjunction with local councils.</p>	<p>A number of community surveys have been carried out following requests made by the relevant town/community council. This has not been County wide to date.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 38:</b> Continue to promote partnerships with community councils, landowners/occupiers and other public and private organisations, to maximise resources available for improved countryside access.</p>	<p>We have developed partnerships with a number of comm cls and private and public organisations to pool resources improve countryside access.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 39:</b> Secure s.106 funding for improvements to Rights of Way and countryside access to meet the needs generated by new development.</p>	<p>We have negotiated for and made use s106 monies in a limited number of cases. We are now becoming actively engaged in the Section 106 Planning Subgroup so that we can make bids for s.106 money and use it to improve networks surrounding a new developments.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 40:</b> Continue to work with Tir Gofal and similar agri-environment schemes to achieve long term improvement to the access network.</p>	<p>Ongoing collaboration with enforcement officers for current agri-environment schemes to maximise resource available for enforcement.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 41:</b> Continue to work jointly to promote a more sustainable use of the network through links with public transport providers e.g. train walks, bus walks.</p>	<p>An opportunity to work with the Heart of Wales Line Trail group to develop train walks has recently been taken up. We would happily consider other similar opportunities but have not been pro-active in identifying schemes.</p>

**2007 – 2017 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**AIM 4: WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS**  
**B. VOLUNTEERS**

<p><b>ACTION 42:</b> Continue to maximise the potential for organised voluntary groups – local, national and international in the provision and improvement and maintenance of countryside access programmes.</p>	<p>In conjunction with Ranger service: 2007-2012 regular use of UNA international volunteers to maintain and improve PRow network. 2007-2014 use of Ramblers volunteer groups for maintenance work.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 43:</b> Continue to provide a minimum of 15 work camps/30 weeks p.a. for local and other organised voluntary groups.</p>	<p>Voluntary work camps ended in 2012</p>

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**AIM 5: PROMOTION – MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, WIDELY AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE FORMS**

**A. GENERAL**

**ACTION 44:**

Continue to work with other agencies to improve opportunities for countryside access from people living in Communities First areas.

Not been an active priority

**POLICY 20:**

Continue to promote and encourage responsible use of the countryside and respect for those that live and work in the countryside.

Involved in the development of the Public Space Protection Order and associated public information to encourage responsible use of public spaces including PRowS. Ongoing distribution of material for the promotion of responsible behaviour in the countryside issued by other organisations such as NRW and the Welsh Government

**POLICY 21:**

Continue to encourage participation in countryside access from all sections of society.

No active promotion presently. Recent Digital Transformation Workshop highlighted opportunities for increased public relations to encourage participation.

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**AIM 5: PROMOTION – MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, WIDELY AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE FORMS**

**B. PUBLICITY MATERIAL**

<p><b>ACTION 45:</b> Retain, revise and update the ‘great outdoors’ brochure as the main printed source of information on countryside recreation access opportunities for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, disabled and vehicular users.</p>	<p>Not been updated. Publication no longer distributed.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 46:</b> Provide promotional material for promoted rights of way.</p>	<p>Promotion ongoing. Approximately 20% of CCC Walks leaflets are being updated each year primarily as downloadable leaflets on CCC website. (Hard copy leaflets still available at present but may be discontinued dependent upon future demand).</p>
<p><b>ACTION 47:</b> Produce Strategic Walks leaflets to promote the (upgraded) Coast, Teili and Tywi and other defined trails.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire’s section of the Wales Coast Path will be added and updated to the CCC website as and when appropriate. The Tywi &amp; Teifi were promoted up until 2015 but no active promotion has been carried out since then and there are no plans to specifically promote the Tywi or Teifi Trails or to reprint the brochures. This is subject to change dependant on resource.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 48:</b> Ensure that the current series of country walks (36) is kept up to date by ongoing review/reprints.</p>	<p>The 36 County Walks and Trails have recently been rationalised down to 22 due to some being identified as inappropriate as CCC promoted walks for reasons of poor quality, accessibility and/or popularity. Additionally some have been removed from the series as they have been superseded by new schemes or are promoted and managed by outside organisations such as the National Trust removing the need for CCC promotion.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 49:</b> Produce updated/additional country walks leaflets to complement the existing series.</p>	<p>WCP superseded CCC Coastal Trail. Now a major promoted route in the County, no other routes added.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 50:</b> Further improve the County Council website by providing information on countryside access opportunities and for all users, including:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Def. map &amp; statement</li> <li>b. Application packs for claims, diversions, etc.</li> <li>c. An interactive map &amp; complaints form.</li> <li>d. Registers of def map applications and statutory declarations.</li> <li>e. Claims &amp; modification orders.</li> <li>f. Local access forum details.</li> </ul>	<p>Website has been improved with the introduction of i-local giving the public a way of viewing PRoW data online. LAF information (minutes of meetings, meeting dates) are published online.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 51:</b> Produce new information on opportunities for horse riding in the County.</p>	<p>Nothing produced by CCC but work closely with BHS and Carms Riders who publish promotional material and info.</p>

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**C. PROMOTING ACCESS FOR ALL**

**ACTION 52:**

Provide 'Access for All' information on access opportunities for those with limited mobility and other impairments.

No

**ACTION 53:**

Promote the social and health benefits of walking, riding, and cycling through events and programmes such as the 'Lets walk Cymru' Scheme, Urban Walks and activity programmes from countryside parks & other locations.

Intermittent promotion of health benefits through 'Walking your Way to Health Officer' (until 2008) Countryside Rangers Service and Volunteers.