

# **Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**2018**

**Annual Report**

**March 2019**

## **Foreword to the Annual Report 2018**

2018 has been an important year for the Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF) with the election of 12 members to the new LAF in June, along with two further members joining during the year, which means the LAF is currently made up of 14 individuals with varying interests and knowledge relating to access to the Countryside. This LAF will be in place for the next 3 years until June 2021.

I would like to thank previous members who decided not to stand for the new LAF for the time they put into the previous LAF.

The LAF has continued to make progress with increased awareness of what the LAF does and more input from various departments within Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) and the Heads of Service.

Throughout 2018 CCC has continued work on its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and it is hoped that this will be in place during 2019.

The LAF discussed 39 different topics during 2018 on a wide range of issues as outlined on pages 5 to 13. This shows that the LAF has been involved in looking at, discussing and advising on a significant number of items throughout the year.

CCC rights of way Maintenance and Legal teams have been working hard throughout 2018 to try to reduce the numbers of problems / issues on the network and it is concerning to see that that the number of outstanding maintenance issues has risen by 9% and that the number of legal issues has risen by 25% (between December 2017 and December 2018). The number of legal issues gives particular concern since it has risen by nearly 50% over the past couple of years. It is unclear whether these increases are due to improved reporting of problems / issues or the continued budget cuts faced by CCC. It was noted that the percentage of Public Rights of Way which are Open, Accessible and Signed declined slightly, to 45.9%. The LAF will continue to monitor the state of the rights of way network closely throughout 2019.

2019 will be another busy year for the LAF with the implementation of the ROWIP, the continued interest in the Tywi Valley Path project and continued discussions with the Heads of Service on strategic and policy issues relating to access to the countryside.

I would like to thank Caroline Ferguson, Lucy Pugh, Jason Lawday, Martin Murray and all members of the Rights of Way Team for the time they have spent and advice that has been given to the forum as secretaries / advisors over the past year.

I would also like to thank all forum members for the time and expertise they give to the forum.

Mark Hadley  
Chairman  
Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

### **A Note from the Secretary**

The Carmarthenshire LAF has had another busy year. Alongside regular quarterly meetings where a wide variety of access related topics are discussed, the LAF have continued to assist and advise on the development of the Carmarthenshire ROWIP and have been through the dissolution of one LAF and election of new forum partway through the calendar year.

Members of the LAF have identified and discussed relevant access topics throughout 2018 which have an impact on access provision in Carmarthenshire. Valuable comments, strategic advice and/or guidance have then been fed back to the Local Authority, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and any other access providers or users in the County.

The continuing provision of data from the Countryside Access service has helped forum members maintain an informed picture of both the operational challenge of keeping the public rights of way network open and an indication of the overall condition of the Public Rights of Way network. With this information the forum have been able to deliver appropriate and useful recommendations the service and the Authority as a whole.

A year of potentially significant changes to public access provision in Wales lies ahead. It is hoped that the Carmarthenshire LAF can continue to keep abreast of the changes and deliver valuable strategic advice to the Local Authority and the Welsh Government during the various stages of those changes.

I would like to express my thanks as interim Secretary for the commitment of the Carmarthenshire LAF membership and the knowledge, experience and constructive advice each member brings to the forum.

Caroline Ferguson  
Interim Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum Secretary

## **Introduction**

The Carmarthenshire LAF was established in September 2002, and covers the County of Carmarthenshire, excluding the area of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for which their LAF has responsibility as shown in Appendix 3. The Local Authority had a statutory duty to establish the LAF as required by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

The statutory function of the Forum is to advise the authority, Natural Resources Wales and others as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purpose of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, with regards to the needs of land-management and the natural beauty of the area.

The remit of the Forum is now widened to advise not only the appointing authority (in our case Carmarthenshire County Council), the Highway Authority and other bodies as may be prescribed by regulations but to advise on the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans, Wardening, the making of bylaws and long-term exclusions and restrictions on access.

The views of the Forum should be sought on any new regulations under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the management of the new rights of access, the strategic priorities for the public rights of way and cycle networks and all other forms of open-air recreation.

Forum members are committed to attend outside groups if appropriate and are encouraged to do all they can to engage with the public.

All meetings of the LAF are open to the public. Minutes of meetings and other LAF details are available on the Carmarthenshire County Council website at: <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum>

The National Assembly for Wales regulations requires appointing authorities to prepare an annual report for each LAF for which it is responsible as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. This report incorporates Natural Resources Wales' guidance on the production and content of Local Access Forum Annual Reports.

The annual report will serve several purposes:

- a) A summary record of the previous year's work. Minutes of individual meetings and other documents produced will give greater detail, but the annual report will summarise the LAF's work.
- b) A work plan for the coming year. This will be the plan agreed between the LAF and the appointing authority, in accordance with regulation 16(2)(b). It is acknowledged that changing priorities and pressure of other work may prevent the plan being adhered to in full.

- c) A 'publicity' document. The annual report must, by statute, be made available for public inspection and it must be available for the public to buy.

## **The Year Reviewed**

### **Reporting of the Statutory Function**

This section of the annual report focuses upon the LAF's performance of its statutory function during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. This function, as included in the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 is to advise:

- a) The appointing authority.
- b) Any body exercising functions under part I in relation to land in that area.
- c) If the appointing authority is a National Park Authority, the local highway authority for any part of that land, and
- d) Such other bodies as may be prescribed.

As to the improvement of public access to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area.

The bodies mentioned in a) to d) above shall have regard, in carrying out their functions, to any relevant advice given to them by a LAF under this subsection or any other provision of this Act.

The LAF held 4 meetings in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. These meetings can be summarised as follows:

- 1) 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Carmarthen Leisure Centre
- 2) 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Towy Centre Llandeilo (LAF Election & 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting)
- 3) 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Carmarthen Leisure Centre
- 4) 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Towy Centre Llandeilo

**Matters Considered by the LAF 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

1. Topic Considered: **CCC Countryside Access Maint and Legal Teams**

Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Summary: LAF meetings have been regularly updated with the situation regarding recruitment into vacant posts within the Rights of Way departments.
2. Topic Considered: **PROW Network Issues Reports**

Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Summary: LAF meetings continue to be updated by receiving a report at each meeting outlining the number of outstanding maintenance and legal issues affecting the rights of way network. These reports are included in Appendix 1.
3. Topic Considered: **ROWIP Update**

Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Summary: The LAF has discussed the ROWIP at several meetings and asked that it be fully consulted on the final report. Concerns were raised at the June meeting regarding the completeness of the consultation carried out. It was confirmed that this was being looked at again. At the September meeting it was confirmed that the draft was going to Exec board for approval on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and that a 12-week consultation will follow. At the December meeting it was confirmed that the Draft ROWIP had been approved by the Executive Board and that it had been received back from translation and that it would shortly be going out for consultation.

4. Topic Considered: **Tywi Valley Path**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF expressed concerns with regards to the project on several occasions, these concerns included the accuracy of the financial and user projections and allowing access to the route for equestrian users. It was agreed at the September meeting that the project and a lack of consultation with the LAF would be discussed at the Heads of Service Meeting.
5. Topic Considered: **Brechfa Wind Farm**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Summary: The LAF continued to keep an eye on the project with regular updates. In the September meeting the issue of Public Liability Insurance was discussed and it was mentioned that the wind farm may cause insurance problems for some user groups, due to the proximity of the wind farm to some of the rights of way. It was agreed NRW would be asked for comment about this.
6. Topic Considered: **County Walks Review**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Summary: Martin Murray informed the LAF that a review of the County Walks is being undertaken.
7. Topic Considered: **Morfa Bychan**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Summary: The LAF had been discussing the proposed traffic regulation order for this Byway with CCC and was regularly kept up to date with developments.
8. Topic Considered: **Nant Gronw**

- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Summary: The LAF had been receiving regular updates with regards to this area of land and its ongoing access issues.
9. Topic Considered: **Gelli Aur**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Summary: The LAF had been receiving regular updates with regards to public access at Gelli Aur Country Park.
10. Topic Considered: **Network Rail Crossing Closures**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Summary: The LAF received an update with regards to closing of rail crossing points.
11. Topic Considered: **Equestrian Strategy**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF agreed at the February meeting that it would support an equestrian strategy. At the September meeting a map of Bridleways was produced by CCC. At the December meeting Karen Burch (KB) confirmed that she had met with CCC to try to resolve some issues with regards to length of Bridleways shown in the ROWIP and that it would be difficult to fully resolve all of these issues. KB also asked if the report provided in February could show whether or not it would be possible to show the issues on closed bridleways and whether it would be possible to re-open them.
12. Topic Considered: **Volunteering**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF has regularly been discussing the use of volunteers to help CCC carry out simple maintenance tasks to the rights of way network. At the December meeting it



was confirmed that ramblers had been carrying out volunteer work on the rights of way network and that it would be good if this work could be recognised. There was also a discussion around payment of expenses for volunteers. It was agreed that a press release would be produced outlining the achievements of volunteers and that the chair would discuss expenses at the next heads of service meeting.

13. Topic Considered: **BBNP Delegation Agreement**  
Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Summary: The LAF have been kept up to date with the progress of the delegation agreement with the Brecon Beacons National Park.
14. Topic Considered: **Draft LAF Annual Report 2017**  
Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Summary: The LAF Annual Report for 2017 was confirmed as ready for publishing at the February meeting. It was confirmed at the June meeting that the report was awaiting translation.
15. Topic Considered: **Re-election of LAF Members**  
Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
Summary: It was agreed at the February meeting that the existing LAF would remain in place until a new LAF was elected.
16. Topic Considered: **Heads of Service Meeting**  
Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: The LAF has been regularly kept up to date with the heads of service meetings that the LAF Chair and Vice Chair attend.
17. Topic Considered: **Cambrian Mountains**  
Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

- Summary: At the February meeting the LAF were informed that the Cambrian Mountains may be looking into 'Nature Park' status. The LAF was informed at the June meeting that a 'Tourist Map' of the Cambrian mountains is in the process of being produced.
18. Topic Considered: **Brechfa Mountain Bike Trails**
- Date(s) Considered: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed the poor state of repair of the mountain bike trails in Brechfa with NRW at the February meeting. NRW confirmed a spend of £40,000 along with usage statistics to the June meeting.
19. Topic Considered: **Election of New LAF Membership**
- Date(s) Considered: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018. 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The new LAF was elected as shown in Appendix 4. The LAF Chair and Vice Chair was also elected. At the September meeting Mo Rapley was accepted onto the LAF. At the December meeting Jim Shadbolt was accepted on to the LAF.
20. Topic Considered: **LAF Chairs Meeting**
- Date(s) Considered: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Summary: Following the June Chairs meeting the LAF were updated with the topics discussed at the LAF Chairs meeting including use of performance indicators, what to do when a LAF term ends, LAF involvement in Glastir and poor attendance of NRW representatives at LAF meetings.
21. Topic Considered: **Quality of BOAT Network & BOAT/ORPA Subcommittee Update**
- Date(s) Considered: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed this topic on a number of occasions and decided to carry out an initial investigation into the state of repair of the UCR and BOAT network. It was agreed

at the September meeting that a sub committee would meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> November to discuss BOAT's and UCR's and look at mapping the routes. At the December meeting it was confirmed that 2 meetings had been held to carry out a mapping exercise of the routes and that 79 routes had been highlighted as needing surveying. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Heads of Service Meeting to see if this information would be useful to CCC.

22. Topic Considered: **HOWL Trail**  
Date(s) Considered: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Summary: The LAF were kept up to date with the progress of the Heart of Wales Line walking trail.
23. Topic Considered: **LAF Minutes**  
Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Summary: It was agreed at the September meeting that minutes would be sent to LAF members shortly after a meeting for approval to allow them to be translated and added onto the CCC website quicker.
24. Topic Considered: **NRW – LAF Contact**  
Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: The LAF asked the NRW representative if the LAF could have a dedicated meeting to discuss rights of way issues. It was confirmed for the December meeting that a meeting is held with BHS representatives and that it isn't open to other groups.
25. Topic Considered: **Glastir**  
Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Summary: The LAF has discussed Glastir at the meetings listed.
26. Topic Considered: **Consultant Update**

- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed the use of consultants to undertake some of the legal department's cases. At the December meeting members asked for an update on the Edwinsford Byway. It was confirmed that the consultant is still undertaking research. The LAF were informed that Finance Act maps and schedule books have been moved to Haverfordwest. Councillor Hughes-Griffiths confirmed that the new archive building is progressing well and should open in Autumn 2019.
27. Topic Considered: **Penstacan Proposal**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Summary: The issues regarding this Byway were discussed and it was agreed at the September meeting that this was not an issue for the LAF to consider further.
28. Topic Considered: **Recreational Access to Water, ROWIP & LAF Representation**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The addition of access to water in the ROWIP was discussed. The LAF also discussed the lack of a canoeist on the forum and agreed to investigate this. At the December meeting it was agreed that the LAF should deal with access to water, not necessarily on it. It was also confirmed that Canoe Wales are consultees for the ROWIP and that they should be aware of the LAF.
29. Topic Considered: **Bridges**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed proposed bridge works on the rights of way network. At the December meeting a list of bridges on the program were confirmed.
30. Topic Considered: **WCP**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

- Summary: Updates with regards to the Wales Coastal and maintenance issues were provided.
31. Topic Considered: **Pembrey Country Park**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed issues regarding yellow lines that were causing parking problems for horse riders wishing to access the park. It was agreed that the LAF would support the horse riders in objecting to the lines unless alternative provision for parking was made available. It was confirmed at the December meeting that CCC has offered Horse Riders access to the Fisherman's Car Park for equestrian parking. Concerns had been raised that this may not be suitable as the track leading to the car park is very narrow and if it is full it would be difficult to turn around with a trailer.
32. Topic Considered: **ORPA / Byways Budget**
- Date(s) Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: The LAF discussed that £16k had been allocated to be spent on 5 vehicular rights of way improvements that had been agreed with users. In the December meeting a list of these rights of ways was confirmed.
33. Topic Considered: **LAF Website**
- Date(s) Considered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: Members of the LAF pointed out that some minutes are not on the website and that dates for future LAF meetings need adding to the website.
34. Topic Considered: **CAMS Demonstration**
- Date(s) Covered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- Summary: Lucy Pugh gave a demonstration to the LAF of the CAMS system and answered

questions about the data it holds and how it could be used.

35. Topic Considered: **LAF Conference 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
Date(s) Covered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: Geoffrey Williams and Caroline Ferguson gave an update on issues discussed at the conference.
36. Topic Considered: **Express Dedication at Common Law (EDCL)**  
Date(s) Considered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: Caroline update the LAF about EDCL and explained that it would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
37. Topic Considered: **A483 Ffairfach Public Access Consultation**  
Date(s) Considered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: The LAF were informed about this consultation and the fact that the Welsh Assembly did not include the LAF in the initial consultation list. It was pointed out by members that some concerns had been raised about the effects this project may have on access.
38. Topic Considered: **Surfacing for Multi-User Paths**  
Date(s) Considered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Summary: The option of using Nu-phalt was discussed and it was mentioned that there may be an opportunity to trial the product on a route in Carmarthenshire.
39. Topic Considered: **Lost Ways**  
Date(s) Considered: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Summary: Richard Legett circulated information about lost ways to the LAF.

### **Other Chair / Deputy Chair / LAF Activities**

List of other engagements carried out by the Chairperson / Deputy / Other LAF Members in pursuance of the aims of the forum during 2018:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Attended</b>	<b>Nature of Attendance</b>	<b>Attended By</b>
21.03.18	Byway User Group Meeting	Members of the Group	Mark Hadley, Karen Burch
28.03.18	LAF Chairs Meeting - Aberystwyth	LAF Chair	Mark Hadley
16.04.18	LAF – Heads of Service Meeting	LAF Chair / Deputy Chair	Mark Hadley, Karen Burch
15.11.18	LAF Conference	LAF Members	Geoffrey Williams, Caroline Ferguson
18.12.18	LAF – Heads of Service Meeting	LAF Chair / Deputy Chair	Mark Hadley, Caroline Ferguson

### **LAF Committees / Other Meetings**

LAF regulation 13 allows for the establishment of committees of a LAF. The Forum established the following committees / attended the following meetings in 2018:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Attended</b>	<b>Nature of Attendance</b>	<b>Attended By</b>
21.11.18	LAF – UCR / Byways Sub Committee	Sub Committee established to look at the mapping of UCR;s / Byways	Mark Hadley, Geoffrey Williams, Mo Rapley, Jillie Gardiner, Richard Leggett, Jason Lawday, Jason Winter
03.12.18	LAF – UCR / Byways Sub Committee	Sub Committee established to look at the mapping of	Mark Hadley, Geoffrey Williams, Mo Rapley, Jillie

		UCR;s / Byways	Gardiner, Richard Leggett, Jason Lawday, Jason Winter
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### **Presentations to the LAF**

The following presentations were given to the LAF in 2018:

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Presentation from Lucy Pugh  
(Carmarthenshire County Council – Acting Countryside Access Officer)  
regarding the CAMS system.

### **Work Plan 2019**

Regulation 16(2)(b) requires that a LAF annual report includes a programme of works which have been agreed between the forum and the appointing authority, which the forum plans to undertake during the next twelve months. The following items are included for 2019:

#### **1. Items expected to be referred to the LAF by other bodies:**

##### **Local Authority:**

It is anticipated that the following items will be discussed with CCC in 2019:

- Active Travel
- Towy Valley Cycleway Project
- ROWIP Review
- Planning
- Grant Improvement Works Programme
- Carmarthenshire County Council Countryside Access Legal and Maintenance Department Staffing Structures
- Regular updates on the grant improvements programme and right of way work undertaken by the authority.
- Updates at each meeting with regards to outstanding maintenance and legal issues.

##### **Welsh Assembly Government and Natural Resources Wales**

It is anticipated that the following items will be referred to the LAF by the Welsh Assembly in 2019:

- ROWIP Review Process

The following are matters that NRW and WAG anticipate that they will refer to LAF's during the year. This is for guidance only and may change to reflect work priorities. **It should not be taken as definitive.** In addition, Local Authorities and National Park Authorities will refer



matters to LAF's. LAF members themselves should also be encouraged to put forward agenda items.

- Engagement with other organisations.
- Publicising the LAF and its work.
- Influence – Monitoring the impact of advice and recommendations.
- Work Plan for the year.
- Membership.
- Role and governance of the LAF.
- Look at support for LAF's.

## **2. Items Proposed by LAF Members and Others:**

LAF members have requested that the following items be discussed in 2019:

- Recruitment of other members of the public / groups that are not represented on the LAF including a Disability User Group Representative and a Canoe / Access to Water representative.
- The Use of Volunteers to Assist the Authority
- Regular Meetings with the Heads of Service (at least 2 per year)
- BOATs Map with Operational Status
- EDCL
- Double Yellow Lines at Pembrey
- Equestrian Strategy
- Brechfa Windfarm Public Liability Insurance
- Agricultural Bill (if relevant at the time)

### **Proposed Meetings in 2019**

The proposed schedule for meetings in 2019 is as follows:

- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Carmarthen Leisure Centre
- 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Tywi Centre Llandeillo
- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Carmarthen Leisure Centre
- 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Tywi Centre Llandeillo

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Outstanding Maintenance and Legal Issues Reports

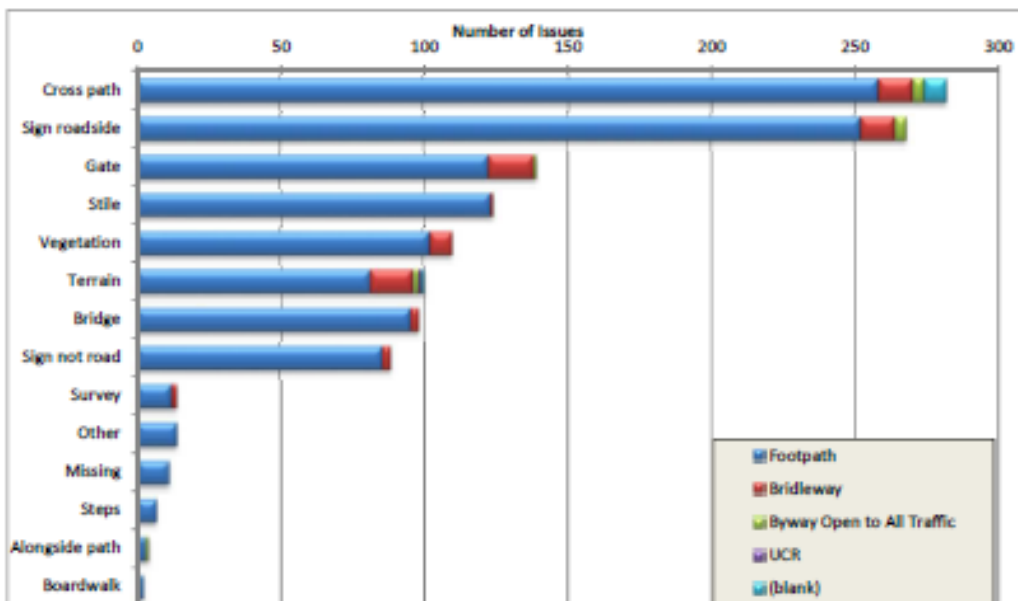
Reports for:

A. 08/02/12

### Outstanding Maintenance Issues as at 08/02/2018

Responsibility	Maint
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

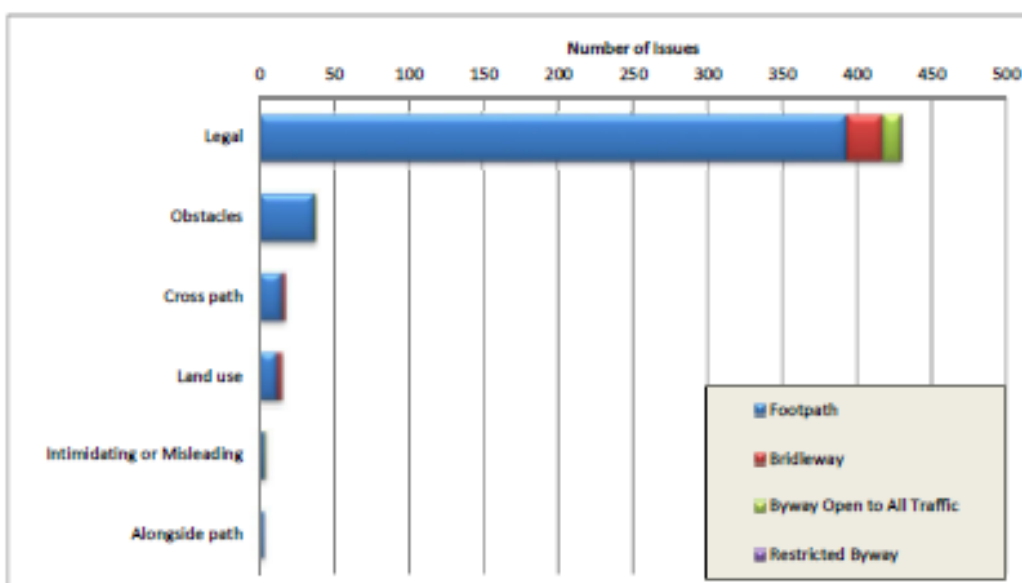
MaintTypeGroup	RouteStatus						Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	UCR	(blank)		
Cross path	258	12	4			8	282
Sign roadside	252	12	4				268
Gate	122	16	1				139
Stile	123	1					124
Vegetation	102	8					110
Terrain	81	15	2	1		1	100
Bridge	95	3					98
Sign not road	85	3					88
Survey	12	2					14
Other	14						14
Missing	11						11
Steps	7						7
Alongside path	3		1				4
Boardwalk	2						2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>1261</b>



### Outstanding Legal Issues as at 08/02/2018

Responsibility	Legal
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

Number of Issues	RouteStatus				
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	Restricted Byway	Grand Total
Legal	393	24	12	1	430
Obstacles	37		1		38
Cross path	15	2			17
Land use	12	3			15
Intimidating or Misleading	3		1		4
Alongside path	3				3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>507</b>

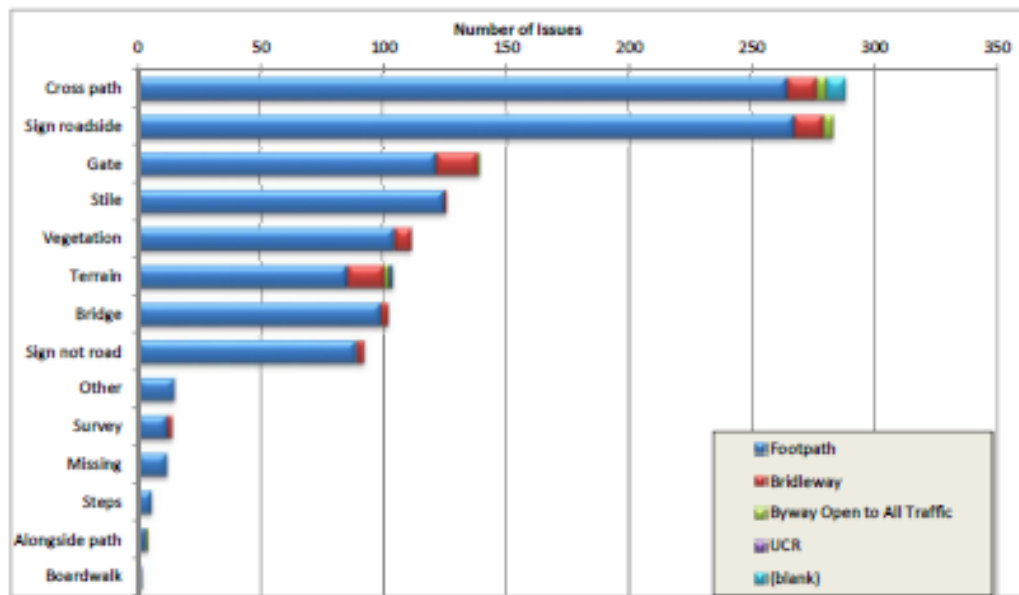


**B. 08/06/18**

**Outstanding Maintenance Issues as at 08/06/2018**

Responsibility	Maint
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

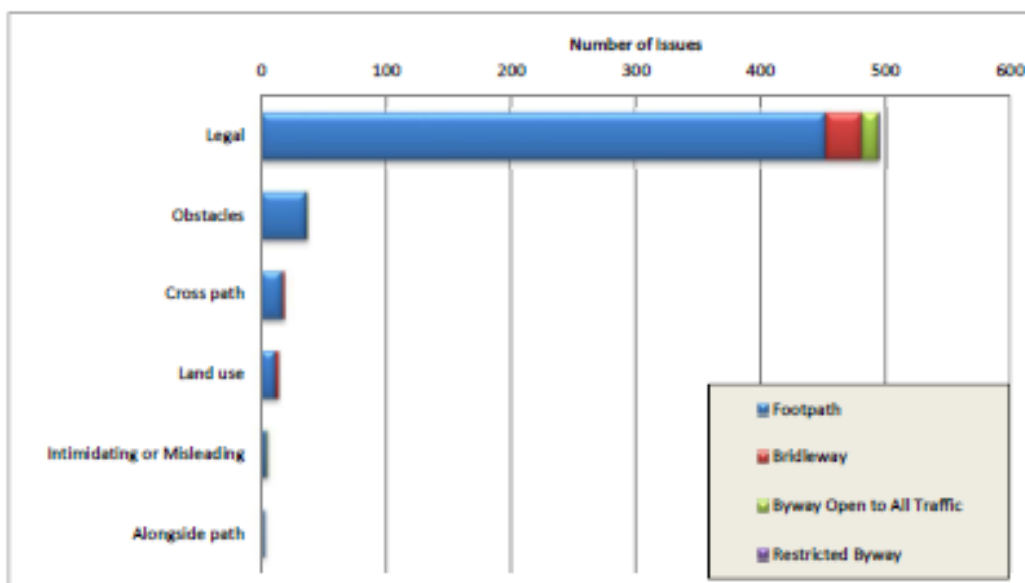
Number of Issues	RouteStatus					Grand Total
	MaintTypeGroup	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	UCR	
Cross path	265	12	4		8	289
Sign roadside	267	12	4			283
Gate	122	17	1			140
Stile	125	1				126
Vegetation	105	7				112
Terrain	85	15	2	1	1	104
Bridge	99	3				102
Sign not road	89	3				92
Other	15					15
Survey	12	2				14
Missing	12					12
Steps	6					6
Alongside path	3		1			4
Boardwalk	2					2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1301</b>



### Outstanding Legal Issues as at 08/06/2018

Responsibility	Legal
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

Number of Issues	RouteStatus				Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	Restricted Byway	
Legal	453	29	13	1	496
Obstacles	37		1		38
Cross path	17	2			19
Land use	12	3			15
Intimidating or Misleading	4		1		5
Alongside path	3				3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>576</b>

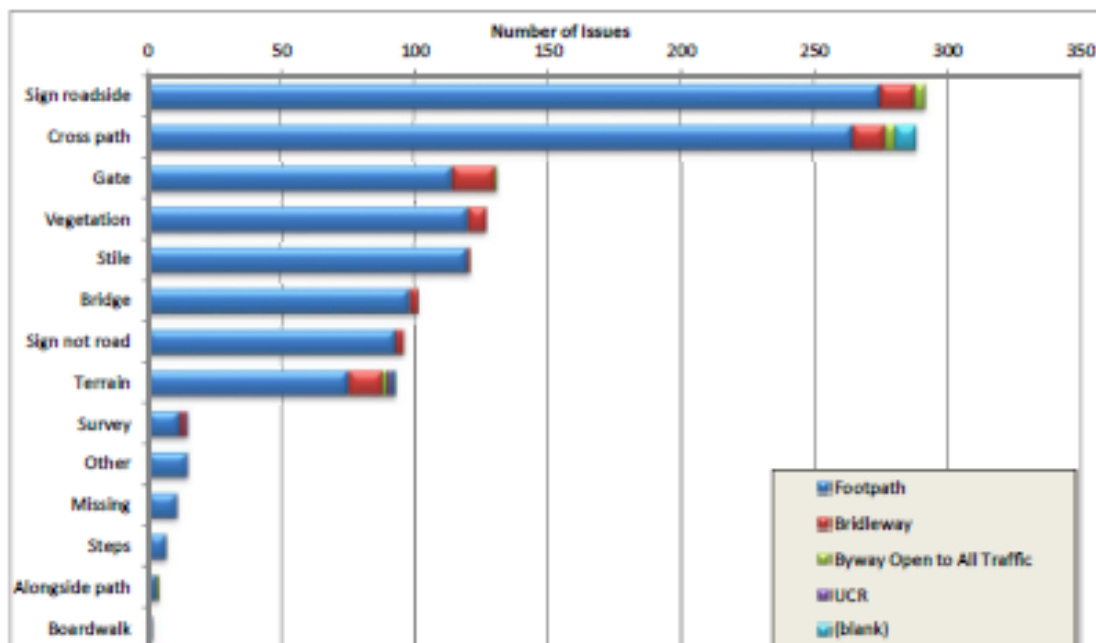


C. 18/09/18

Outstanding Maintenance Issues as at 18/09/2018

Responsibility	Maint
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

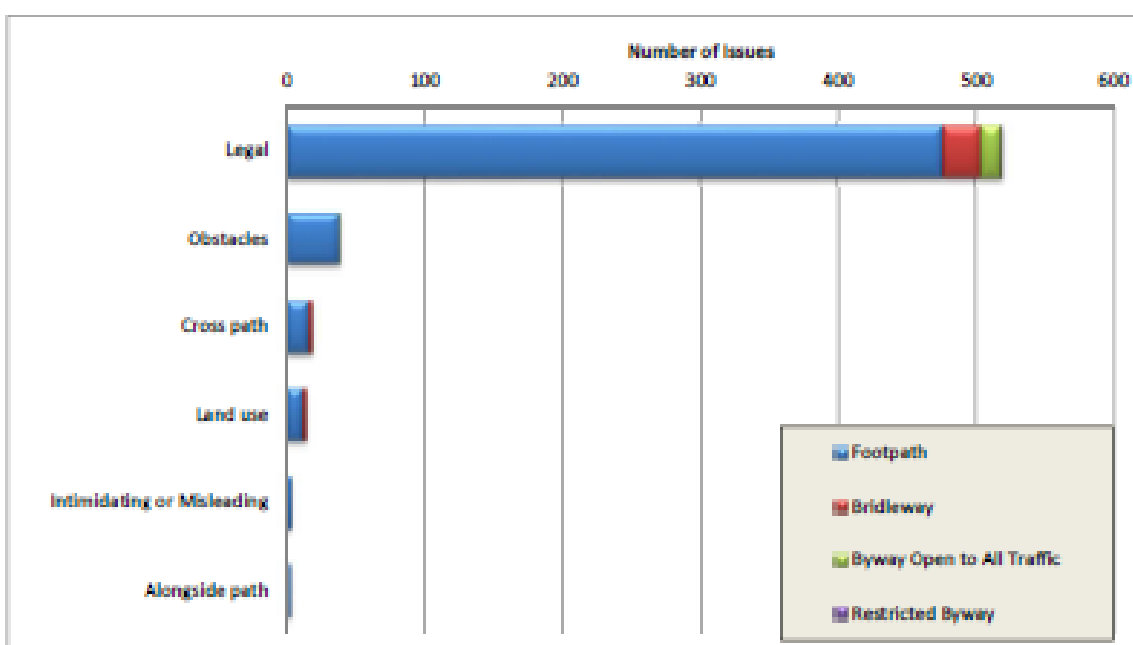
Number of Issues	RouteStatus					Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	UCR	(blank)	
Sign roadside	275	13	4			292
Cross path	265	12	4		8	289
Gate	114	16	1			131
Vegetation	120	7				127
Stile	120	1				121
Bridge	98	3				101
Sign not road	93	3				96
Terrain	75	13	2	2	1	93
Survey	12	2		1		15
Other	15					15
Missing	11					11
Steps	7					7
Alongside path	3		1			4
Boardwalk	2					2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1304</b>



### Outstanding Legal Issues as at 18/09/2018

Responsibility	Legal
MaintStatus Desc = Legal or Unresolved	(Multiple Items)

Number of Issues	RouteStatus				Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	Restricted Byway	
Legal	476	28	15	1	520
Obstacles	38		1		39
Cross path	16	3			19
Land use	12	3			15
Intimidating or Misleading	4				4
Alongside path	3				3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>600</b>



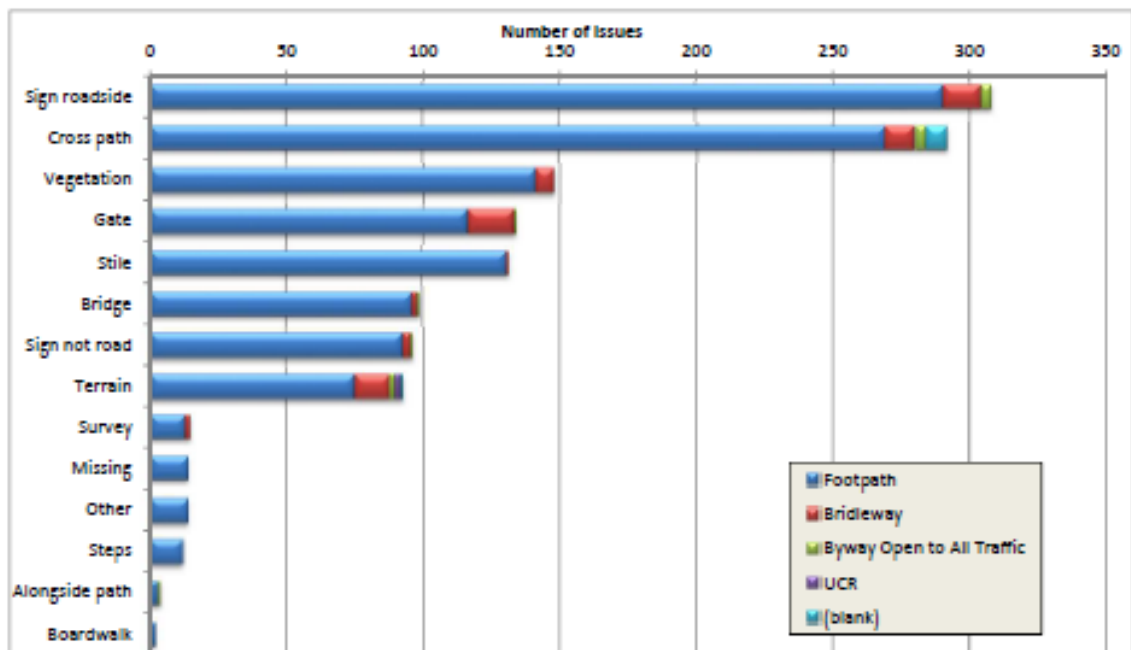


D. 04/12/18

Outstanding Maintenance Issues as at 04/12/2018

Responsibility = Maint	Maint
MaintStatus Desc = Unresolved	Unresolved

Number of Issues	RouteStatus					Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	UCR	(blank)	
Sign roadside	290	14	4			308
Cross path	269	11	4		8	292
Vegetation	141	7				148
Gate	116	17	1			134
Stile	130	1				131
Bridge	96	2	1			99
Sign not road	92	3	1			96
Terrain	75	13	2	2	1	93
Survey	13	2				15
Missing	14					14
Other	14					14
Steps	12					12
Alongside path	3		1			4
Boardwalk	2					2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1362</b>

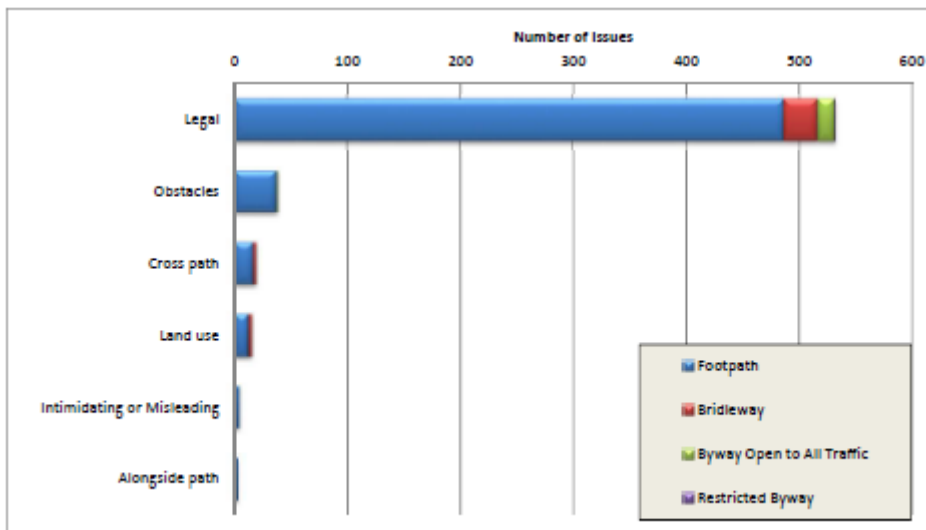


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**Outstanding Legal Issues as at 04/12/2018**

Responsibility = Legal	Legal
MaintStatus Desc = Unresolved	Unresolved

Number of Issues	RouteStatus				Grand Total
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway Open to All Traffic	Restricted Byway	
Legal	486	30	15	1	532
Obstacles	37		1		38
Cross path	16	3			19
Land use	12	3			15
Intimidating or Misleading	4				4
Alongside path	3				3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>611</b>



## Appendix 2 – Appointing Authority Details

<b>Name of Appointing Authority:</b>	Carmarthenshire County Council
<b>Area Covered by LAF:</b>	The whole of Carmarthenshire except that part which lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.
<b>Secretary:</b>	Caroline Ferguson, Acting Countryside Access Manager, Countryside Recreation and Access Unit, Carmarthenshire County Council, Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Heol Hirwaun Olau, Tumble, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6HU.
<b>Telephone:</b>	01554 747511 (ext 3811)
<b>E-Mail:</b>	CFerguson@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

### Appendix 3 – Map of Local Access Forum Area



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Additional information: Carmarthenshire County Council

#### Key

- Area Surrounded in Red = Carmarthenshire
- Area Surrounded in Yellow = Section of County in Brecon Beacons National Park (Not Covered by Carmarthenshire LAF)

### Appendix 4 – Membership / Recruitment Details

In accordance with Regulation 3 of the Countryside Access (LAF) (Wales) Regulations 2001, all members of a forum are appointed for three years from the date of the first meeting of a three-year cycle that a forum exists for.

At the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Mark Hadley was elected as Chair and Karen Burch was elected as Vice Chair. The following table contains brief details of the membership up to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Appointed to LAF</b>	<b>Date LAF Membership Terminated</b>	<b>Brief Background Details / Interests</b>
Mark Hadley (Chair)	26 / 02/15	N/A	Tourism, Walking, Motorised Access
Karen Burch (Vice Chair)	26/02/15	N/A	Equestrian Access, Tourism
Caroline Ferguson (Interim Secretary)	12/05/16	On Maternity Leave from 28/09/17 Meeting	Interim Countryside Access Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council
Alan Warner (Council Appointed Member)	26/02/15	14/06/18	Countryside Operations Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council
Edward Percy	26/02/15	14/06/18	Motorised Access
Caroline Evans	26/02/15	N/A	Landscape / Ecology Protection, Tourism, Open Access
Eric Jones	26/02./15	14/06/18	Farming
Jillie Gardiner	26/02/15	N/A	Equestrian Access, Tourism
Chris Rankin	26/02/15	11/05/17	Horse Riding / Driving Access, Landowner
Keith Morgan	26/02/15	14/06/18	Local Community Council, Farming
Glyn Evans	26/02/15	N/A	Farming
Eric Davies	26/02015	14/06/18	Farming
David Stacey	26/02/15	N/A	Cycling, Countryside Management, Agricultural Environment
Jane Evans	19/11/15	N/A	British Horse Society
Richard Leggett	19/11/15	N/A	Carmarthen Ramblers
Geoffrey Williams	19/11/15	N/A	Walking
John Cook	22/09/16	14/06/18	Llanelli Ramblers
Gerald Brown	22/09/16	N/A	Farming

At the LAF meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 it was agreed that the members listed on the previous page would continue to represent the LAF until a new LAF was elected.

At the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 the following members were elected onto the LAF for the next 3-year term:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Appointed to LAF</b>	<b>Date LAF Membership Terminated</b>	<b>Brief Background Details / Interests</b>
Mark Hadley (Chair)	14 / 06/18	N/A	Tourism, Walking, Motorised Access
Karen Burch (Vice Chair)	14/06/18	N/A	Equestrian Access, Tourism
Caroline Ferguson (Interim Secretary)	14/06/18	N/A	Interim Countryside Access Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council
Caroline Evans	14/06/18	N/A	Landscape / Ecology Protection, Tourism, Open Access
Jillie Gardiner	14/06/18	N/A	Equestrian Access, Tourism
Glyn Evans	14/06/18	N/A	Farming
David Stacey	14/06/18	N/A	Cycling, Countryside Management, Agricultural Environment
Jane Evans	14/06/18	N/A	British Horse Society
Richard Leggett	14/06/18	N/A	Walking, Carmarthen Ramblers
Geoffrey Williams	14/06/18	N/A	Walking, Youth Hostels, Cambrian Way
Gerald Brown	14/06/18	N/A	Farming
Paul Barrett	14/06/18	N/A	Walking, Llanelli Ramblers
Michael Jones	14/06/18	N/A	Biodiversity, Ecology, Land Use for Recreation

The following members were elected onto the LAF during 2018:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Appointed to LAF</b>	<b>Date LAF Membership Terminated</b>	<b>Brief Background Details / Interests</b>
Mo Rapley	20/09/18	N/A	Trail Riders Fellowship, Motorised Access to the Countryside
Jim Shadbolt	06/12/18	N/A	Walking, General PRow, Open Access Land

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The LAF Members attended the following LAF meetings in 2018:

<b>Name</b>	<b>15/02/18</b>	<b>14/06/18</b>	<b>20/09/18</b>	<b>06/12/18</b>
Mark Hadley (Chair)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Karen Burch (Vice Chair)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Caroline Ferguson (Interim Secretary)	Maternity Leave from CCC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lucy Pugh (Interim Secretary)	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Alan Warner (Council Appointed Member)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Edward Percy	Apologies	N/A	N/A	N/A
Caroline Evans	Yes	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Eric Jones	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jillie Gardiner	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Keith Morgan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glyn Evans	No	Apologies	Yes	Apologies
Eric Davies	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
David Stacey	Apologies	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Jane Evans	Apologies	Yes	No	No
Richard Leggett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geoffrey Williams	Yes	Yes	Apologies	Yes
John Cook	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gerald Brown	No	Apologies	Yes	Apologies
Paul Barrett	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Jones	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
Mo Rapley	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
Jim Shadbolt	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

Key

Yes	Attended meeting
Apologies	Apologies of non-attendance received
No	Did not attend meeting & no apologies received
N/A	Person was not a LAF member at this meeting.

A number of advisors / members of the public have attended LAF meetings throughout the year as shown in the table below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Cliff Cleaton	CCC – Acting Countryside Access Officer	15.02.18
Martin Murray	CCC – Maintenance Representative	15.02.18
Councillor Peter Hughes-Griffiths	CCC – Executive Board Member	15.02.18, 06.12.18
Paul Barrett	Llanelli Ramblers	15.02.18
Glyn Lloyd-Jones	NRW Representative	15.02.18
Jason Lawday	CCC – Countryside Access Officer	14.06.18, 20.09.18
Mo Rapley	Trail Riders Fellowship	14.06.18
Rob Williams	Trail Riders Fellowship	14.06.18, 06.12.18
Russell Jones	NRW Representative	20.09.18
Andy Firth	Trail Riders Fellowship	20.09.18
Peter Jones	Trail Riders Fellowship	20.09.18
Sian Jones	Trail Riders Fellowship	20.09.18
Gruffydd Rees	CCC – Countryside Access Ranger	06.12.18



## Appendix 5

### LAF Annual Report Distribution List

CCC Website  
CCC Libraries  
CCC Customer Care Centres  
Community Councils  
CCC Members  
CCC Chief Executive & Directors  
Carmarthenshire Tourist Association  
Ceredigion Ramblers Association  
Pembroke Ramblers Association  
Llanelli Ramblers Association  
Dinefwr Ramblers Association  
Carmarthen and District Ramblers Association  
Lampeter Ramblers Association  
Carmarthenshire Riders  
British Horse Society  
Green Lane Association  
Treadlightly  
Trail Riders Fellowship  
Welsh Trail Riders Association  
Auto Cycle Union  
British Motorcyclists Association  
Sustrans Cymru  
Natural Resources Wales  
Farmers Union of Wales  
National Farmers Union  
National Trust  
Open Spaces Society  
Byway & Bridleways Trust  
British Driving Society  
Cyclists Touring Club  
LARA (Land Access & Recreation Association)  
Canoe Wales  
Brecon Beacons LAF  
Pembrokeshire LAF  
Ceredigion LAF  
Powys LAF  
Neath & Port Talbot LAF  
Swansea LAF

## **Appendix 6**

### **Further Reading**

#### LAF Annual Reports

All appointing authorities are required by statute to produce annual reports. These can be obtained from the relevant LAF secretary. Agendas, minutes and other papers are also available for individual LAF meeting at:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum>

#### Government Act

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; The Stationery Office Ltd (2000).

#### National Assembly Wales

The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001; The Stationery Office Limited (2002).

Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way (October 2016)

#### Natural Resources Wales

LAF Guidance 1: The Establishment of Local Access Forums – Advice and Best Practice Guidance (2002).

LAF Guidance 2: The Role Duties and Functions of Local Access Forums (2002)

## **Appendix 7**

### **Glossary**

The list below shows the full definitions for the acronyms used throughout this annual report:

LAF	Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
PROW	Public Rights of Way
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park
BOAT	Byway Open to All Traffic
ORPA	Other Route with Public Access
UCR	Unclassified County Road
HOWL	Heart of Wales Line Trail
BHS	British Horse Society
WCP	Wales Coastal Path
EDCL	Express Dedication at Common Law
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
LARA	Land Access and Recreation Association