

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

2023 Annual Report



Contents	Page
Foreword to the Annual Report	2
Comments from the Secretary	3
Introduction	4
Meeting Diary	5
Guest Speakers	5
Monitoring and Scrutiny	6
Principle Matters Considered by Local Access Forum	7
Proposed Work Plan for 2024	15
Appendices	17

Foreword to the Annual Report

2023 has been a positive year for the Forum with improved communication between the LAF and the authority and several positive meetings held.

The LAF was made up of 12 members throughout 2023 all with varying interests and areas of expertise relating to rights of way and access to the countryside. A list of LAF members during the year along with details of who attended which meeting is included in the appendices (1 & 2).

The LAF received presentations from several organisations throughout the year including one from Ramblers Cymru about Carmarthenshire County Councils volunteers survey project. This will see volunteers survey a significant part of the rights of way network in the County and is a project that the LAF is keen to see develop next year.

The LAF considered 32 different topics during 2023 on a wide range of issues as outlined within this report. This shows that the LAF has been involved in looking at, discussing, and advising on a large number of items throughout the year.

During 2023 the LAF has monitored information about the state of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network provided by the Carmarthenshire Countryside Access Team. The general trend throughout 2023 was largely unchanged from previous years, showing a steady increase in both legal and maintenance recorded issues. The LAF continues to watch these numbers with interest and is aware that once the network survey is completed in 2024 these may increase further. The LAF understands that this will give a more realistic data set for the actual state of the rights of way network in the county and enable the authority to develop a strategic way to improve the network going forward.

2024 will be another interesting year for the LAF with the continued monitoring of the ROWIP, the continued interest in the Tywi Valley Path project, working alongside CCC to develop an equestrian strategy for the county, results from the network survey to be discussed and continued discussions with the Heads of Service on strategic and policy issues relating to access to the countryside.

2024 will be the last year of the current LAF with its 3-year term ending in December. A new forum will then need to be elected for 2025.

I would like to thank Caroline Ferguson, Jason Lawday and all members of the Countryside Access Team for the time they have spent and advice that has been given to the forum as secretary / 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

Chair - Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF)

Comments from the Secretary

This report marks the completion of the second year of the current LAF term.

During 2023 there were no member resignations from the forum, but an interim secretary was appointed in February 2023 to provide maternity cover the remainder of the calendar year.

All meetings have been held face to face with the benefit of some attendees joining remotely. This hybrid approach, a legacy from the LAF Coronavirus Regulations 2020, has worked well and has benefitted the forum with additional contribution from speakers who could not otherwise have attended.

The Carmarthenshire LAF continue to contribute to the development and enhancement of Countryside Access across the County, providing comment and advice on matters relating to procedure, policy, compliance and funding.

Carmarthenshire County Council are very grateful for the experience, knowledge and enthusiasm members bring to the forum and thank them for their commitment.

The forum has also been supported by observers, advisors and speakers, who have attended LAF meetings through 2023 and who have provided a valuable contribution to agenda items.

The information and comment from organisations and individuals who have supported the LAF has assisted the forum in delivering its advisory function; the authority is grateful to these contributors and hope this valuable support will continue.

Caroline Ferguson
Countryside Access Manager & LAF Secretariat
Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)

Introduction

The Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum was first established by Carmarthenshire County Council, the appointing authority, in September 2002 (see appendix 3).

The forum covers the County of Carmarthenshire, excluding the area of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park for which their own LAF has responsibility (see Appendix 4)

This report, a statutory requirement under the CROW Act 2000, covers the work undertaken by the Carmarthenshire LAF from January 2023 until the end of December 2023, the second year of its 3-year term.

The position of LAF secretariat during 2023 was temporarily covered by an interim secretary who took on the duties from February 2023 until December 2023.

This annual report will serve several purposes:

- a) A summary record of the year's work
- b) A work plan for the coming year - this will be agreed between the LAF and the appointing authority, in accordance with regulation 16(2)(b). It may however be subject to change in accordance with changing priorities and pressures through the year.
- c) A 'publicity' document. The annual report must, by statute, be made available for public inspection and it will be available for the public to buy.

Organisations represented on the Carmarthenshire LAF

Carmarthenshire County Council	Ramblers
CCC Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste & Infrastructure	Cycling UK
Natural Resources Wales	Green Lane Association
British Horse Society	Trail Rider's Fellowship

Interests represented on the Carmarthenshire LAF

Local Walking Groups	Mountain Biking
Disability/Limited Mobility Access	Conservation
Tourism	Natural & Historic Environments
Voluntary Sector	Recreational Vehicular Access
Private Landowners (smallholders)	Wellbeing

Meeting Diary

All meetings were held in person, any remote attendance was accommodated by prior arrangement with the secretariat. Meetings are held at two different venues in the County on an alternating basis.

Through 2023 the day LAF meetings were scheduled was varied. This was decided to make meetings more accessible to more people/stakeholders after feedback suggested the former fixed day schedule was restrictive.

- 1) 16th January 2023, 6pm – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo
- 2) 16th March 2023, 6pm – Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Johnstown
- 3) 5th June 2023, 6pm – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo
- 4) 18th September 2023, 6pm – Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Johnstown
- 5) 11th December 2023, 6pm – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo

Guest Speakers

Members welcomed the following speakers on topics summarised below:

- 1) Jenny Bringloe, WSP – ongoing ROWIP Mid Term Review Presentation
- 2) Hannah Wilcox Brooke and Angela Charlton, Ramblers Cymru - Paths to Wellbeing and Carmarthenshire Volunteers Survey Project
- 3) Nigel Nicholas, Wales Coast Path (WCP) Officer – WCP management; opportunities, challenges and future vision.
- 4) Amy Goodwin and Rebecca Brough, Ramblers Cymru – delivery of the Volunteers Survey project and future aspirations for volunteer workforce.

Monitoring & Scrutiny

The regular business of the LAF during 2023 has included updates from the CCC Countryside Access team, CCC Outdoor Recreation team, CCC Highways and the NRW Operations Manager on any matters relating to access. Members provide feedback and ask a range of questions. In this way, progress, workloads, and priorities are monitored by members.

The LAF provides independent strategic oversight of the council's public access work. For example, the planning and preparation of annual PROW improvement projects, quarterly PROW issue reports, PROW Orders, Planning Applications (with access implications) and Traffic Regulation Orders.

Content and actions from the Byways User Group meetings (a group re-formed in February 2023) are also fed back to the LAF for information and observation at the strategic level.

LAF subgroups are created where certain topics within the remit of the LAF require more detailed discussion.

Two LAF subgroups operated during 2023:

- 1) ROWIP Mid-Term Review subgroup (in operation since 2022) – comprised LAF members, CCC Countryside Access Manager and WSP Consultant. Subgroup took part in initial review workshop, evaluating implementation of ROWIP delivery plan. Subgroup has fed back to main LAF and kept a watching brief of review progress.
- 2) PROW Marketing and Promotion subgroup - comprised LAF members, CCC Countryside Access Manager and CCC Tourism Development Officer. Subgroup look at existing PROW promotion and where it could be changed, enhanced, or updated. Subgroup has fed back to main LAF.

Principle Matters Considered by the LAF

1. Topic Considered: New Members / Resignations

Date(s) Considered: 16 January 2023

Summary: Written resignations from Paul Barrett, Geoffrey Williams and Andy Pughsley were read out at the January meeting; these resignations took effect in December 2022.

2. Topic Considered: ROWIP Mid Term Review

Date(s) Considered: 16 January 2023, 16 March 2023, 5 June 2023, 18 September 2023, 11th December 2023

Summary: Notification in January meeting that mid-term review had been re-assigned to a new WSP consultant who would follow on from work by previous consultant through 2022. New consultant to assess work already completed before producing final draft that would be circulated to LAF for comment. Remote presentation by consultant in March to update members on progress and outline how findings would be presented; scope of review also clarified.

Topic raised under 'Actions Arising' in June and September meetings, no further updates available, no final review document circulated by year end.

3. Topic Considered: PROW Issue Reports

Date(s) Considered: 16 January 2023, 5 June 2023, 18 September 2023, 11th December 2023.

Summary: Reports on the number of outstanding issues for both legal and maintenance issues were produced ahead of each LAF meeting with the exception of March where the report was produced after the meeting.

The issue data was analysed, and findings were discussed at 4 of the 5 meetings in 2023, issue reports being a recurring agenda item.

General trend through 2023 was largely unchanged from previous years, showing a steady increase in recorded issues.

As with previous years, possible reasons for increasing numbers were numerous and varied, including: notable increase in demand for the network, (prompted most significantly by the 2020 Covid pandemic) and more accessible reporting methods with the roll out of CAMSWeb.

In June, members discussed how the figures illustrate under-resourcing of a service with a growing demand.

In the January meeting the secretariat highlighted the impact that the proposed 100% network survey would have on the data in the Issue Reports, potentially reducing the usefulness of the reports in their current form. She advised that the issue reports would be altered soon (no definite date), to provide more rounded data that illustrates a broader picture of service trends. The future usefulness of the issues data once the proposed network survey is complete was also discussed in June.

4. Topic Considered: **A48 Crossings Closures Consultation**

Date(s) Considered: 16 January 2023, 16 March 2023, 5 June 2023, 18 September 2023

Summary: LAF consultation response sent in 2022 acknowledged but awaiting further reply from consultants (Atkins). Welsh Government (WG) approval required prior to Atkins issuing a formal response, CCC action to seek further reply from Atkins.

Topic raised under 'Actions Arising' throughout the year, up to and including the September meeting, no further updates available.

5. Topic Considered: **PROW Projects**

Date(s) Considered: 16 January 2023, 16 March 2023, 5 June 2023, 18 September 2023

Summary: Written updates provided by the Countryside Recreation and Access Manager (CRA Manager) were read out at each meeting with the exception of March 2023 when no update was available.

Some project delivery was delayed due to adverse weather, but revised schedules of work saw projects completed within the relevant financial year(s).

In the January meeting, LAF members were invited to bring PROW project ideas forward, these were sent to CCC via email, members await feedback.

It was agreed that the top ten scoring PROW project proposals on the Countryside Access forward work programme will be brought to the forum for comment, members await the first opportunity to consider proposals.

Members await details of how project funding provided by the former Carmarthenshire Riders group would be used.

In the December meeting, a written breakdown of maintenance and improvement projects delivered through 2023-24 financial year to December, provided by the CCC CRA Manager, was read out by the LAF secretary. Queries and suggestions raised were noted, to be taken back to the CRA Manager.

General view of members that attendance from senior member of CRA team would be useful so project delivery can be discussed during meetings.

6. Topic Considered: **LAF Chairs Meeting**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023

Summary: Meeting attended by forum member on behalf of Chair. Points discussed of interest to Carmarthenshire LAF: importance of LAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), PROW budget concerns across Wales, Wales Coast Path review.

Member discussion: MoU considered important in Carmarthenshire to clarify role and purpose of LAF, to be progressed once new CCC Head of Service is appointed. The extreme PROW budget pressures elsewhere in Wales appreciated. WCP Officer for Carmarthenshire to be invited to next LAF.

7. Topic Considered: **Horse Riding Proposals in CCC Parks**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023

Summary: Details of proposals to revise permissive access arrangements for equestrians at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park (MMWP) provided by Outdoor Recreation Manager. Similar approach to previous development of permissive access at Llyn Llech Owain, carefully planned to avoid conflict between users and damage to conservation areas.

Need for resurfacing of shared use paths highlighted to Outdoor Recreation Manager.

Positive site visit conducted at MMWP with Outdoor Recreation representative and equestrian access users reported back to LAF. Subsequent signage to control equestrian access to environmentally sensitive areas of the site erected.

September meeting highlighted some perceived negative feedback towards equestrian users in MMWP. Users have a social media approach in place to identify users still abusing permissive access arrangements with a view to educating them.

Access to Cefn Sidan beach via the Byway at the edge of Pembrey Country Park also discussed, matter not concluded in 2023. Consideration of extending beach access to carriage drivers requested whilst Outdoor Recreation Manager present at LAF, members await final response.

8. Topic Considered: **Antisocial Behaviour & PSPOs in CCC Parks**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023

Summary: LAF discussed reports of aggressive dogs incidents at MMWP and the idea of a PSPO for the site. Outdoor Recreation Manager highlighted the lack of on site staff at MMWP to enforce a PSPO. Incidents should be reported to Outdoor Recreation team and the Police (Dangerous Dogs criminal matter). Police need to receive reports to build a picture of issue and plan enforcement.

9. Topic Considered: **Ramblers Cymru - Paths to Wellbeing Project and Carmarthenshire PROW Survey**

Date(s) Considered: 18th September 2023, 11th December 2023

Summary: LAF were presented with information from Ramblers' representatives on recently completed Paths to Wellbeing project within County, benefits of working with organised volunteers highlighted.

Ramblers' officers also introduced to proposed Ramblers assisted delivery of Rights of Way Network Survey Project. Thorough Q&A on the survey covering topics such as aims, scope, standards and engagement.

Ramblers appointed volunteer project officer introduced at December meeting. Role outlined and more detailed plans for delivery of network survey provided.

Future updates planned for each LAF meeting until the completion of the project.

10. Topic Considered: **Equestrian Strategy**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023, 11th December 2023.

Summary: Update of the status of the draft Strategy provided during first meeting of 2023. Members advised that responsible officer, on maternity leave from February 2023, would continue with strategy on her return in January 2024, draft on hold in the interim.

Members unhappy with how long strategy is taking, equestrian forum members disappointed with pause in progress, would like to see data received from user survey.

Update on strategy requested at December meeting with imminent return of responsible officer.

11. Topic Considered: **PROW Marketing Subgroup**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023

Summary: Regular reports back to main LAF from subgroup members outlining positive outcomes from the group.

Working closely with the Marketing and Media team, subgroup has helped to successfully implement enhanced promotion of CCC's County Walks and National Trails.

New walking leaflet being developed incorporating map of all promoted routes.

12. Topic Considered: **Heads of Service Meeting/LAF Engagement**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023

Summary: Concerns raised by forum members regarding lack of CCC engagement with LAF. Members feel they are not being listened to and response to LAF correspondence has been consistently slow.

Feedback provided in January 2023 from 2022 meeting between Head of Service for Highways and Transport, LAF Chair and Deputy Chair. Generally positive outcomes for LAF engagement with the Council including clarification of roles, more consultation with LAF and regular Head of Service meetings. Further concerns regarding engagement raised in June 2023 to Cabinet Member, forum await outcome of meeting with the new Head of Service before discussing next steps.

13. Topic Considered: **Cycling on Footpaths/Cycle Track Conversion Orders**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023, 11th December 2023.

Summary: Members requested update on current CCC position regarding cycling on footpaths following Counsel advice received on the subject.

FOI request submitted by cycling UK to obtain further details of advice, nothing fed back to LAF to date. Cycle Track Conversion Orders proposed on some public footpaths with cycling use. Conversion Order project being progressed by WSP consultants. Project update provided at December meeting; members raised some queries which the interim LAF secretary took back to WSP for response.

14. Topic Considered: **Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023

Summary: An outstanding request made to CCC in 2022 by the LAF for a comprehensive list of current, live, permanent TROs across the PROW and Unclassified (U/C) roads network continued to be discussed.

There are only permanent TROs in place on Byways and U/C roads in Carmarthenshire, no Orders have been applied to lower status PROWs.

Information required therefore, to be obtained from Highways department.

Members await TRO information which is likely to be further delayed due to the pressures of delivering 20mph Orders across the road network.

15. Topic Considered: **LAF Archive Tour**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023

Summary: There is interest amongst LAF members in visiting the new Carmarthenshire Archives and taking the tour offered by staff there. Tour yet to be scheduled; securing a tour date which coincides with member availability has been challenging.

16. Topic Considered: **Towy Valley Path (TVP)**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 5th June 2023, 11th December 2023

Summary: Members discussed consultation event held in January 2023 and kept a watching brief on the Compulsory Purchase approach being adopted to secure land for the route which culminated in Public Inquiry at the end of the year; outcome expected early 2024. Members also discussed the delivery model for constructing the route and how that might shape delivery of similar projects in the future.

17. Topic Considered: **CCC Local Development Plan (LDP)**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023

Summary: Chair attended LDP meeting early in the year, members raised queries in respect of Landscape Designation and the inclusion of Public Access as a consideration in the LDP. LAF Chair took lead on raising queries with relevant Officers, members await an update.

18. Topic Considered: **Proposed Pylons Installations, Tywi Valley**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023

Summary: General discussion around potential impact of Pylons to outdoor recreation, access and tourism. Members agreed to keep a watching brief on the scheme whilst the LAF secretary ensured the Carmarthenshire LAF were recorded as consultees.

19. Topic Considered: **Kidwelly Byways Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Proposals**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023

Summary: LAF conducted a site visit March 2023 to inspect the Byways subject to the draft Traffic Regulation report. Observations and recommendations fed back to area officer, key advice from LAF was further research & engagement prior to finalising TRO decision.

20. Topic Considered: **Carmarthen Active Travel (AT) Proposals**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023

Summary: LAF member attended online presentation in respect of current AT proposals. Concern raised regarding lack of engagement with LAF. Also felt some of the project specifics - bike storage, charging points, provision of Cargo Bikes – need further consideration. Questions raised during discussion in respect of existing cycling infrastructure not being part of proposals.

21. Topic Considered: **Brownhill Woodland Creation**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023

Summary: Phillip Morgan, NRW Land Management Team Leader and advisor to the LAF provided an update on the Brownhill site and confirmed that the LAF would be consulted on the proposed site plan once it is finalised. Expansion of the National Forest a further benefit of the project following interest from an adjacent private landowner. LAF Chair and Deputy Chair attended a site visit with NRW to better understand the access proposals.

22. Topic Considered: **Brechfa Walking Trails**

Date(s) Considered: 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023

Summary: Phillip Morgan informed members that the 12 mile walking trail around Brechfa West forest being developed by NRW is near completion. Forest harvesting has caused some delays, there will be an official launch once completed and LAF will be advised of the launch event. Update requested from NRW in June, members await further information.

23. Topic Considered: **NRW Forestry Works Procedures**

Date(s) Considered: 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023

Summary: Phil Morgan provided an overview of NRW timber harvesting procedures, clarifying consultation obligations, reinstatement responsibilities and pragmatic approaches to managing access in remote areas. Members had several views on the procedures outlined, primary advice was that NRW should follow all correct legal procedures to safeguard access and the public during harvesting and communicating closures to access for harvesting could be improved.

Later in the year, LAF secretary reported that CCC has developed an improved working relationship with NRW in respect of harvesting.

24. Topic Considered: **Access Reform (Wales)**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023, 16th March 2023, 5th June 2023, 18th September 2023

Summary: Access Reform briefing note issued to LAF Chair and Secretary early in the year, no significant change or progress made. Welsh Government reform has delayed progress in delivering any proposed changes, no further communication issued to LAF regarding proposed reforms. Topic of Access Reform to be covered at the next National Access Forum meeting.

25. Topic Considered: **Wales Coast Path**

Date(s) Considered: 18th September 2023, 11th December 2023

Summary: Nigel Nicholas (Wales Coast Path Officer) presented the LAF with a brief history of the Wales Coast Path, the challenges it poses, current funding, how it is managed and current improvement schemes. Nigel took questions from members in respect of equestrian access along the WCP, the issue of road sections and potential route diversions.

Later in the year members were informed that short circular routes linking with the WCP were being investigated by outdoor writer Paddy Dillon, with several surveys being carried out to determine feasibility.

26. Topic Considered: **NRW use of Private Security**

Date(s) Considered: 18th September 2023, 11th December 2023

Summary: Topic brought to the group by the LAF Chair who provided background on a new issue. NRW using private contractors to deal with civil offences on the WG forestry estate, reported instance of lawful access being prevented; instance resolved by NRW.

Later in the year Phil Morgan (NRW) provided further details in respect of why private security have been appointed. Many cases of illegal activity and trespass have created need for out of hours cover in problem hotspots across the estate. Forestry Act enforcement powers being used.

27. Topic Considered: **NRW Outdoor Recreation Strategy**

Date(s) Considered: 18th September 2023

Summary: NRW Outdoor Recreation Strategy (ORS) circulated to the LAF. Not a public consultation, stakeholders only. Chair suggested members submit individual responses focussed on their access interests, single cohesive response not possible due to wide range of topics.

Members felt the consultation should be more widely available, enquiries made as to who stakeholders are, members await further details.

28. Topic Considered: **National Access Forum (NAF)**

Date(s) Considered: 16th January 2023

Summary: Secretary provided summary of main points of discussion at recent NAF meetings. Similar difficulties within LAFs across Wales, particularly around recruitment. Secretary to continue to attend meetings as far as possible.

29. Topic Considered: **PROW Information Leaflets**

Date(s) Considered: 11th December 2023

Summary: New Landowner Information leaflet live on website, PROW Furniture Charging Policy & PROW Network Hierarchy not yet online, members advised that they should be published on the PROW webpages.

30. Topic Considered: **PRoW Staffing**

Date(s) Considered: 5th June 2023

Summary: Some re-purposed posts within the PROW team were approved in 2023 which will better serve the needs of the Countryside Access team going forward. Members agreed this was very good news.

31. Topic Considered: **Cilmaenllwyd PROW Improvement Project**

Date(s) Considered: 11th December 2023

Summary: An update was provided by the LAF secretary of this ongoing project in the County. Members agreed it is a commendable project that has potential to serve as a case study for future schemes.

32. Topic Considered: **Green Lane Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM)**

Date(s) Considered: 11th December 2023

Summary: LAF Chair brought topic to the forum, providing an overview GLEAM, LAF secretary shared associated consultation documents. LAF to keep a watching brief.

Proposed Work Plan for 2024

The work programme for the LAF in the coming year will look closely at the following issues:

- 1) LAF Engagement – continue discussions with Head of Service and Cabinet Members to drive improved CCC engagement with LAF.
- 2) ROWIP Mid Term Review - evaluate and provide comment on final document
- 3) Equestrian Strategy - review & comment on draft strategy and support completion by Autumn 2024
- 4) Volunteer Network Survey project - watching brief, provide comment/support as required
- 5) Active Travel Proposals - watching brief, provide formal advice as required
- 6) Cycle Track Conversion Orders – review and comment on proposals as consultation documents are issued. Provide advice on process as considered necessary.
- 7) PROW Promotion subgroup – continue to work with Countryside Access and Marketing teams to implement further improvements to the promotion and marketing of countryside access opportunities.
- 8) WG Access Reform – watching brief, provide formal advice as required
- 9) WG Sustainable farming proposals – watching brief, provide formal advice as required
- 10) Live Permanent TROs across Highway & PROW Network – seek full details and review routes subject to closure.
- 11) Kidwelly Byways Project with TRO Proposals – consider any response to advice already submitted. Continue to provide advice on proposals through to delivery of project.
- 12) Horse Riding Proposals in CCC Country & Woodland Parks - watching brief, provide formal advice as required
- 13) Wales Coast Path - watching brief in respect of current Paddy Dillon investigation into circular routes/links, provide advice as required.
- 14) Rights of Way Improvement Projects – monitor and review projects planned for and delivered through 2024.
- 15) AIG funding - review of use.
- 16) Forthcoming AIG funding award - review of proposed use
- 17) Local Development Plan - review and provide formal advice as required.
- 18) External funding for rights of way work – highlight and discuss opportunities.
- 19) PROW issue/performance reports - continued review, assessment and comment.
- 20) Towy Valley Path - watching brief on 2024-25 delivery.

21) Proposed Towy Valley Pylons – watching brief.

22) Carmarthenshire Archives Tour – interested parties participate, feedback to members.

23) Ongoing NRW Access Matters

- Brechfa Walking Trails
- Brownhill Forest Creation
- Outdoor Recreation Strategy

24) A48 Crossing Closures – watching brief, provide formal advice as required

25) Barriers to accessing the countryside – what prevents certain people/groups accessing the countryside e.g. those with mobility issues, residents living in areas of deprivation,

26) With the current LAF term ending in December 2024, consideration of the Council's approach to discharging its statutory responsibilities for rights of way and access issues across the 3-year term.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - 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 each three year term. The present three year LAF term commenced 13 December 2021, the table below lists LAF membership through 2023.

Name	Position	Interests	Date Appointed
Mark Hadley	Chair	Walking, Vehicular PROWs, Tourism, Landowner	13/12/2021
Karen Burch	Deputy Chair	Equine (Carms Riders Chair & BHS Member) Local History	13/12/2021
Caroline Ferguson	Secretary	N/A	13/12/2021
Jason Lawday	Interim LAF Secretary	N/A	28/01/2023
Jillie Gardiner	Member	Tourism, Equine, Landowner	13/12/2021
Dave Gravelle	Member	Cycling and Recreational Vehicular access, tourism	13/12/2021
David Stacey	Member	Cycling, Walking	13/12/2021
Peter Griffiths	Member	Cycling, Disability/Mobility	13/12/2021
Phil Snaith	Member	walking, cycling, disability access	13/12/2021
Sean Brown	Member	Walking Mountain biking, motorcycle Trail Riding	13/12/2021
Richard Leggett	Member	Walking (RA member)	13/12/2021
Mo Rapley	Member	Vehicular PROWs (TRF Member)	13/12/2021
Wyn Owen	Member	Ramblers Assc, Scouts, DofE	13/12/2021
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe	Member	PROWs, Conservation, natural & historic environments	13/12/2021

No new members were elected to the LAF during 2023

Appendix 2 – LAF Meeting Attendance

Member attendance record for 2023.

Name	16/01/23	16/03/23	05/06/23	08/09/23	11/12/23	Percentage Attendance
Mark Hadley (Chair)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Karen Burch (Deputy Chair)	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	80%
Caroline Ferguson (Secretary)	Y	A	A	A	A	20%
Jason Lawday (Interim Secretary)	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Jillie Gardiner	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	80%
Dave Gravelle	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	80%
David Stacey	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	80%
Peter Griffiths	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	80%
Phil Snaith	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	80%
Sean Brown	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	80%
Richard Leggett	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Mo Rapley	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	80%
Wyn Owen	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	80%
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe	A	A	N	A	A	0%

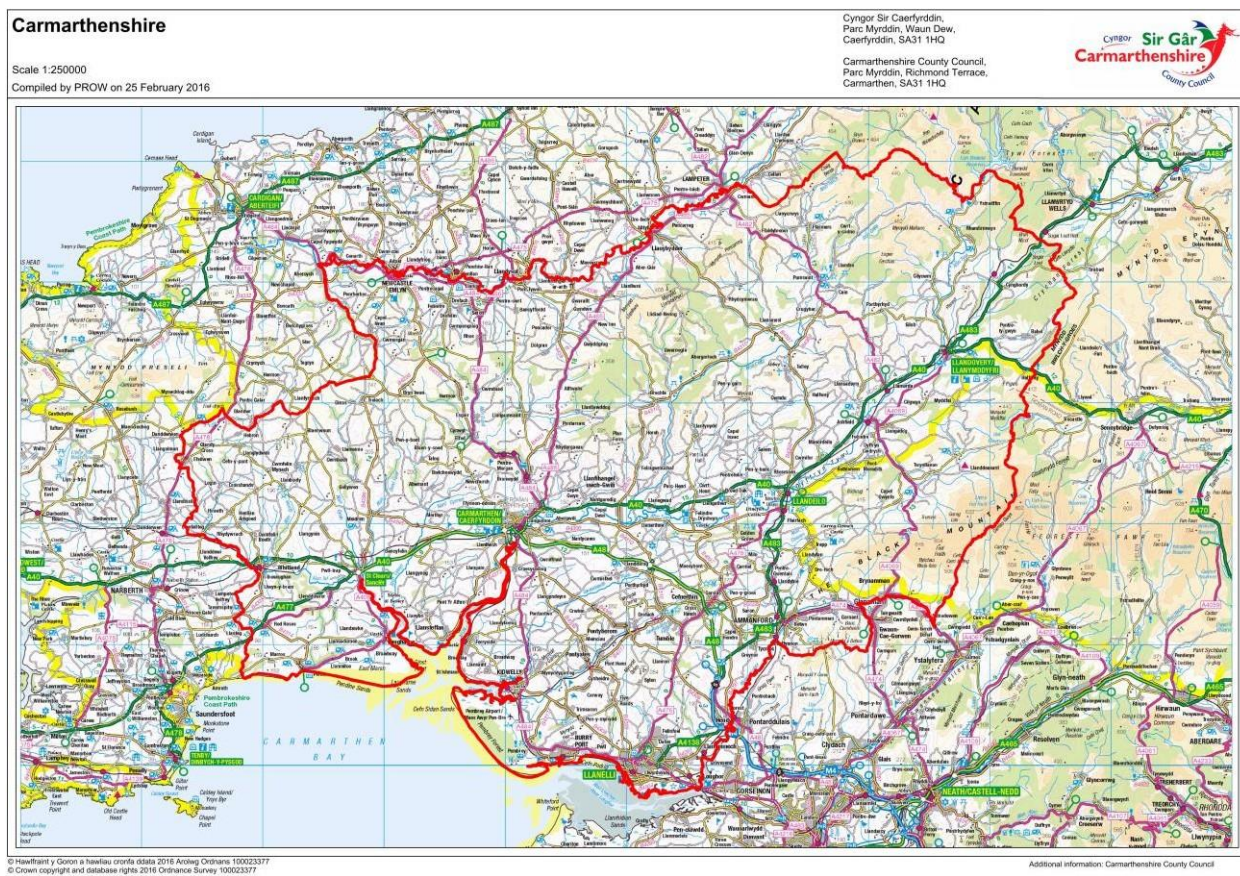
Key

Y	Attended meeting
A	Apologies of non-attendance received
N	Did not attend meeting & no apologies received
N/A	Not a member on this date

Appendix 3 – Appointing Authority Details

<u>Name of Appointing Authority:</u>	Carmarthenshire County Council
<u>Area Covered by LAF:</u>	The whole of Carmarthenshire excluding Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Caroline Ferguson, Countryside Access Manager, Countryside Recreation and Access Unit, Carmarthenshire County Council, Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Heol Hirwaun Olau, Tumble, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6HU.
<u>Telephone:</u>	01554 742216 (ext 2216)
<u>E-Mail:</u>	prow@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Appendix 4 – Map of Local Access Forum Area



Key

Area Surrounded in Red = Carmarthenshire
Area Surrounded in Yellow = Section of County in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
(not covered by Carmarthenshire LAF)

Appendix 5 – LAF Annual Report Distribution List

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. CCC Website | 19. Auto Cycle Union |
| 2. CCC Libraries | 20. British Motorcyclists Association |
| 3. CCC Hwbs | 21. Sustrans Cymru |
| 4. Town and Community Councils | 22. Natural Resources Wales |
| 5. CCC Local Members | 23. Farmers Union of Wales |
| 6. CCC Chief Executive & Directors | 24. National Farmers Union |
| 7. Carmarthenshire Tourist Association | 25. National Trust |
| 8. Ceredigion Ramblers Association | 26. Open Spaces Society |
| 9. Pembroke Ramblers Association | 27. Byway & Bridleways Trust |
| 10. Llanelli Ramblers Association | 28. British Driving Society |
| 11. Dinefwr Ramblers Association | 29. Cyclists Touring Club |
| 12. Carmarthen and District Ramblers Association | 30. LARA (Land Access & Recreation Association) |
| 13. Lampeter Ramblers Association | 31. Canoe Wales |
| 14. British Horse Society | 32. Brecon Beacons LAF |
| 15. Green Lane Association | 33. Pembrokeshire LAF |
| 16. Treadlightly | 34. Ceredigion LAF Powys LAF |
| 17. Trail Riders Fellowship | 35. Neath & Port Talbot LAF |
| 18. Welsh Trail Riders Association | 36. 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: [Local Access Forum \(gov.wales\)](http://LocalAccessForum.gov.wales)

Government Act

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
The Stationery Office Ltd (2000).
[Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

National Assembly Wales

The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001;
The Stationery Office Limited (2002).
[The Countryside Access \(Local Access Forums\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2001 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way (October 2016)
[Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way - October 2016 \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

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)