

Countryside Access Delivery Plan 2021-2022



This plan is provided to advise on projects being implemented to deliver the Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan. This plan will be amended and revised as projects and resources change.

Well Maintained Public Rights of Way Network and Countryside Sites: To target improvements to ensure greatest public benefit is obtained. Objective: WM1 Better network/sites for leisure and daily use; WM2 Compliance; WM3 Promotion of responsible use; WM4 Evolution and increasing the accessibility of the network; WM5 Improve Green Infrastructure

WG = Welsh Government. NRW = Natural Resources Wales. MCC = Monmouthshire County Council WCP= Wales Coast Path BBNP = Brecon Beacons National Park

Projects	CAIP reference	Who	When	Resources	What has been done? (see also newsletters) Q1 1 st April –June 30 th Q2 1 st July to 30 September Q3 1 st October – 31 December Q4 January 2022 -31 st March 2022
Flood repairs Over £63,000 already spent in 2020/21, repairing flood damage to surfacing and structures throughout county. Projects identified in flooding spring 2020.	WM1 1.4, 1.8	Highways & Countryside Access	Completed by q4 February 2022	Grant extended to 2021 WG £56,286.66	Q1 Installation of counter Castle Meadows, installation bridges at Sandhouse & Panty-Goytre
Drybridge Park, Monmouth. Footpath surfacing 100m, signage and bridge	WM1	Countryside Access	Q3 October 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant	Q2 Procurement checks

improvements. Making route more accessible to all, throughout year.				£5,000	
Rogiet Country Park - 250m Surfacing of paths in park to improve access for all.	Wm1 1.3,1.4, 1.6 1.7, 1.12 AHL1 7.0, 7.1 CL1 18.1, CL3 20.0	Countryside Access	By October 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £20,000	Q2 Quotes and procurement
Bridge Repairs and replacements 5+ replacements under WG grant. 9 replacements and 2 re-seating, prioritised under MCC capital	Wm1	Countryside Access	Q4 February 2022	WG Access Improvement Grant £20,000	Q1 518 resolved bridge issues from 816 received. 5 new bridges installed at Sandhouse, Panty Goytre, Llanvair Kilgedin, Llantrisant. Q2 New bridges installed at Walnut Tree Farm llandegvedd and Magor. Temporary closures on website updated
Dixton Church Wye Valley Walk Replace and upgrade 2x bridges north of Dixton Church and resurface 70m path by church to school	Wm1	Countryside Access	Q3 September 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £15,000	
Volunteer project To primarily help install access furniture (62+) purchased utilising 2020/21 Access Grant Monies and to purchase some more materials for more volunteer identified improvements	WM1 1.3,	Countryside Access Gwehelog, Penallt,	Q3 September 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £10,775	
Trellech Common (Trellech to New Mills) Improve and upgrade surface of bridleway 100m	Wm1 1.8ahl1 7.1 ahl1 7.5	Countryside Access	Q3 September 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £5,000	

Shirenewton Improve 40m surface/drainage of a footpath, which connects the Primary school with the Recreation Centre and Grounds.		Countryside Access	Q3 September 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £5,000	
Maintain Offa's Dyke Path National Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance • Signage 	WM1 1.10	Countryside Access, NRW, WG	Ongoing, but Q4 March 2022 for grant	£7,700 of which 75% grant funded by WG administered NRW	Q1 Bid made and final claim for 2020/21 made. Q2 50 th birthday waymarkers installed and social media publicity undertaken. Clearance contract underway.
Maintain Wales Coast Path (work programmed:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general maintenance, • surfacing and alignment change at Black Rock Country Park, • Signage and Improvements to path at Sudbrook Hill Fort • Re-alignment St Pierre to Mathern 	WM1 1.10, WM3 4.6	Countryside Access, NRW, WG, landowners, Cadw	Ongoing, but q4 to complete grant	Wales Coast Path Grant £21,974 of which £700 100% grant aided and rest 75%. Balance made up by MCC	Q1 Regional meeting Q2 vegetation clearance underway. Meetings with Redrow and Cadw re Sudbrook Hill Fort improvements
Gwent Green Grid Partnership Identifying missing links to access network regionally and locally, developing ranger training programme and implement delivery of projects in region.	Wm6 6.1 Wm3 4.2 Wm5 5.0, 5.1 Wm4 4.0 AHL1 7.0 AHL17.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6 Wm6 6.1, 7.7, 7.9	Torfaen CBC Lead, MCC GI & Countryside Access, Newport CC, Bleaneau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CBC, NRW, Aneurin Bevin Health Board, local	19 May 2021 to 2023	Tbc	Q2 Torfaen CBC Appointing officer

		Access Forums & other partners			
Runston Medieval church. Combining conservation of historic assets with access improvement scheme.	WM3 4.6 Wm3 3.3	Cadw, WG Estates, Landowner, Archery Range, MCC Countryside Access & Environmental Health	Summer 2021	Cadw grant?	Q3 Meetings held with all parties and improvements agreed. Signage being costed.
Severnside Footpath – measures to prevent or reduce anti-social behaviour and supporting responsible safe use by tenants and public	Wm3 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 5.2				
Living Levels Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving signage “to Wales Coast Path” Waymarking and signage on 3 new routes & promote Replacing missing signage on paths in Living Levels project area 	WM1 1.3	MonLife Green Infrastructure	March 2021	£15,000	Q2 Seeking approval from NRW re signage for WCP. Procurement work for other projects
Green Infrastructure Improvements Wye Valley AONB Nature based & wider landscape initiatives to	WM4 4.3, 4.4 Wm6 6.2, 6.3 AHL 9.6 Pw1 21.6 FF4 24.4	Highways, Police, NRW, Countryside Access, GI, Landowners, User Groups	ongoing	Seeking funding and to identify costs	Q2 Meeting with Highways to work jointly on addressing issues on C2.2, Old Castle Rd in BBNP.

address long-term highway issues, flooding and secure multi- purpose access routes within Wye Valley.		Wye Valley AONB			
Wye Valley AONB Access Improvements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wye Valley Walk bank/erosion project in Wyesham Monmouth 2. Wordsworth Walk Improvements 	Wm1 1.11	Wye Valley AONB Countryside Access, , cAPITA	ONGOING (Q3 bespoke hand forged handrail to be installed on wordsworth walk)	£38k WG Sustainable Landscapes, Wye Valley AONB and landowner contribution	<p>Q1 Clearance of Wordsworth route at Cleddon and opening up one of the historic drainage channels above Tanglewood to encourage the peak flows into brook rather than path</p> <p>Q2 Capita designs being considered for suitability and cost evaluation on Wye Valley Walk</p> <p>Wordsworth Walk Improvements started removal of infrastructure, install new steps, secure edge of path skirting Falls and removal invasive Cherry. See AONB Facebook for pictures and ongoing updates</p>
Maintaining PROW network	WM1 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7	Countryside Access, landowners, community councils	Ongoing	Capital £	<p>Q1 Resolved 7178 issues on prow network</p> <p>Q2 Cutting contracts underway and 1st clearance of vegetation.</p>
Maintain countryside sites and prepare management plans	WM1 1.12	Countryside Access, Friends of Groups, Volunteers,	ongoing	MCC revenue £20,000 Warrenslade woodland management	<p>Q1 Hogweed sprayed in Country Park sites. Removal willow tree and grass cutting at Castle Meadows completed</p> <p>Q2 New site signage installed. Working with Cadw on improvements at Tintern Abbey Furnace, carpark and other reinstatement/improvement works at</p>

				section 106 £9,119.50 Section 106 Clydach Ironworks enhancement scheme £53,000	Clydach underway. Seeking additional funds for critical repairs to monument.
Reduce cropping issues	Wm1 1.1	MCC, landowners, NFU, fuw	ONGOING (SEASONAL)	Existing Countryside Access budget	Q1 Received 745 issues, resolved 734 98.52% cropping issues resolved
Promotion of responsible behaviour and new countryside code	Wm3 3.0	MCC	ongoing		Q1 social media messages re new countryside code. Press re Wild Swimming. Q2 Wild swimming and countryside code altered and promoted on VisitMonmouthshire.gov.uk and social media.
Annual review of BBNP delegation agreement and work plan	WM1 1.9	MCC, BBNP	April 2021	Existing budgets	Completed April 2021. See delivery plan for BBNP for improvements happening in the National Park

Active Healthy Lifestyles: To improve the accessibility of the network/countryside sites and to make it easier for people to incorporate walking, riding and cycling into their everyday lives. To support the rights of way network for purposeful journeys.

Objectives: - Increase Health and Well Being Benefits; Active Travel; Modal shift to walking & cycling; Tackling deprivation and disadvantage

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Projects	CAIP reference	Who	When	Resources	What has been done? (see also newsletters) Q1 1 st April –June 30 th Q2 1 st July to 30 September Q3 1 st October – 31 December Q4 January 2022 -31 st March 2022
Castle Meadows Active Travel	AHL1 7.0 & 8.4, 7.6, 7.8, AHL 8.0, 8.2 AHL3 9.0, 9.4	Countryside Access, Active Travel, WSP, Highways	2021/23		Q2 programming project with consultants. Clearance, surveying and ecology reports. Fortnightly meetings. Designs being considered.
Wye Valley Walk to Dixon Church Active Travel	AHL1 7.0 AHL3 9.2, 9.4 AHL4 10.1	Amey, Countryside Access, Monlife Active TRAVEL	2021		Q2 July received news project could be funded, waiting confirmation.
Active Travel Consultation	Ahl1 7.0 AHL2 8.4		June/July 2021		Q1 Reviewed active travel routes q2 consultation to LAF July 2021

Williamsfield Lane upgrading footpath to cycleway/bridleway	AHL1 7.0, 7.6, 7.8, AHL 8.0, 8.2 AHL3 9.0, 9.4	Highways Countryside Access			Q1 Provided temporary matting surface. Q2 Advising over legalities to upgrade and possibly move path.
Usk Railway Path creation of cycleway	Ahl1 7.0	Highways	2021/22		Project being dealt with by Highways
Greenway Active Travel – Railway Caldicot	Ahl1 7.0	Green Infrastructure	2021/23		Routes and improvements being provided by Green Infrastructure Team

Knowing What's Out There: To achieve an up-to-date and accessible Definitive Map and Statement and to promote countryside sites and PROW network.

Objectives; Maintain and make more accessible records; Provide advice on PROW network & countryside sites; Negotiate Improvements; More accessible information/increasing knowledge and confidence; Promotion of Wales Coast Path, Offa's Dyke National Trail & promoted routes; Sustainable tourism; Disability promotion improvements

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Maintain pubic registers on line and add list of all section 147 authorisations and legal orders	KWOT 11.2	MonLife Countryside Access	2021/22	Existing resources	Q2 List of temporary closures updated Temporary closures on line here
Processing applications to create, move, or close public paths.	Kwot2	Monlife Countryside Access, Legal Services, WG	ongoing	Existing resources and applicant recharge	46 Highways Act Orders and 19 Town and Country Planning Act orders in various stages of completion.

Review of Modification Prioritisation programme	KWOT 11.3	Monlife countryside access	Winter 2021		
process and make temporary closure notices as required	KWOT2 12.4 P	Monlife Countryside Access, Legal Services, WG	ongoing	Existing resources and applicant recharge	Q2 updated temporary closures (8th July) register
Continue to process claims according to prioritisation and seek additional resources to clear backlog of applications.	KWOT 11.3	MonLife Countryside access, Legal Services, Highways, Planning Inspectorate	ongoing	Existing resources	Q1 one modification order confirmed. One consultation completed. One delegated power authorisation for order to be made.
advice re planning applications	KWOT2 12.1	MonLife Countryside Access	ongoing	EXISTING	Q1 190 LAND CHARGE SEARCHES completed (compared to 108 last year)
Woodland Access Information Provide links to NRW's sites on MonLife's webpages and Visit Monmouthshire	KWOT4 14.4	NRW, MonLife Destination Management and Countryside Access	Not yet started due to Covid Deferred to 2021/22	eXISTING	
Work with NRW reviewing other ways of dealing with claims on NRW land and seek resources to produce management plans.	KWOT3 13.1	Nrw, mONLIFE	ONGOING	EXISTING	No progress due to covid and increased demands on staff time elsewhere
bridleway Access Information in Woodlands. Establish where the public can ride a horse in NRW woodlands within	Kwot4 14.5	NRW, MonLife Destination Management and	December 2021	existing	

Monmouthshire and make information accessible		Countryside Access			
Review of signage across MonLife sites	KWOT 16.2	MonLife Countryside Access	completed	Covid funding	Q1/2 Installed new entrance signage on sites.

Community Involvement: To support and enable volunteer groups to be actively involved with countryside projects, contributing to well-being and creating sustainable and resilient communities.

Objectives:- Volunteer Involvement; Assisting volunteers; New volunteer programmes to improve health and well-being, improve environment/biodiversity and get young people volunteering

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Development of Geology Circular Walk , Cefn Ila, Llanbadoc (MCC element improving access for all by replacing stiles with gates)	WM1 1.6, 1.2, 1.3 AHL1 7.6, 7.7, kwot4 14.3 kwot6 16.3 cl1 18.1CL3 20.2, pw1 21.7	Ramblers Cymru, Llanbadoc Community Council, MCC Countryside Access, Landowners	TBC – affected by Covid Estimated new gates in place autumn 2021	Ramblers funding and Access Improvement Grant Funding	
Magor – complete signage and promotion of 8 circular routes around Magor & Undy	WM1 1.6, CI1 18.1	Green Infrastructure, living Levels	Autumn 2021	Section 106 funding £4,608	
Mark My Paths , Pilot project for Wales. Training volunteers and identifying	WM1.3 & CI1 18.1	Ramblers Cymru, Volunteers,	January 2020 – March 2021		Q1 surveys underway and records being updated

important missing signage. Working with communities to resolve.		MCC Countryside Access and Torfaen CBC			q2 Discussions with Ramblers & Grosmont Walkers re improvements in their area.
Penallt Volunteer Group promotion of circular route Buzzard and improvement of paths	WM1 1.6 & CI1 18.1	Pennalt Volunteer Group, Countryside Access		Existing resources and some of WG Access improvement Grant	Q2 volunteers just starting to be able to work again subject to covid regs and individual checks by volunteer co-ordinator
Supporting existing groups and the development of new community groups to improve and maintain their local rights of way and countryside sites (including training & guidance),	WM1 1.6 , CI1 18.2 FF7 27.3		ONGOING		Q1 Training 2 new volunteer groups Q2 Assistance to Grosmont Events Walking Group to submit bids to Community Green Energy and Paths 4 People. Return of the Narth Group, Friends of Castle Meadows. Saturday Task Group returned after 16months and repaired fencing and put up bird boxes in Castle Meadows. Junior Friends of Castle Meadows returned also.
Develop and publish guidance on responsibilities for groups and insurance requirements	C12 19.1		ONGOING		completed
Seek opportunities for specific groups to also enhance access on permissive paths on NRW land.	AHL 1 7.2	The Narth Volunteer Group, Mon Life Countryside	ongoing	Existing resources	Unable to progress to autumn 2021 due to staff capacity limitations

Links to Penallt Volunteer Group Promotion of new circular route (Buzzard) .		Access and NRW			
CAMS UPGRADE - Improve Information Technology and mapping interface to be more useful for volunteer projects	CI2 19.0	Exegesis, Countryside Access MCC SRS	2020 - 2021	Existing	2020 Contract in place to update website to meet security, accessibility and welsh language standards. Add additional functionality to include Newport Information Hub support volunteers, additional workflows for officers, e.g. bridge assessments and improve speed and base mapping provision. Q2 cams upgrades being tested.

A Prosperous Wales: To maximise the economic benefits of countryside access

Objectives: To maximise economic benefits, Improve product and grow new markets

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					Q1 1 st April –June 30 th Q2 1 st July to 30 September Q3 1 st October – 31 December Q4 January 2022 -31 st March 2022
Maintain Regional Coast Path Management Meetings	FW1 21.3	NRW, WG, CADW, MonLife	ongoing	existing	Q1 regional meeting held on Teams. 15 th July Our Living Trails Introductory webinar

Future Focused: Working for a resilient and future focused service in partnership with others, to provide wider benefits to residents and visitors in Monmouthshire.

Objectives:- Increase awareness of the CAIP, Links to other strategies and plans; To deliver objectives in the plan; Partnership working; Environmental Impact & Mitigation Measures; Resourcing; Improved customer service; Legislative changes & operational management

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23.0 Strengthen partnership working with key Stakeholders to make better sense of the network and provide well-maintained safe attractive environments.			ongoing		Q1 and ongoing until September MonLife site wardens assisting with checks on countryside access sites. Q2 Considering land acquisition with Redrow. Working with Cadw on improvements to access at Runston Church and Archery site. Assisting Gwehelog with funding grant. Meetings with Wye Valley AONB re access improvements. Liaising with Environmental Health and Health & Safety Executive for assistance with specialist enforcement cases. National Trust re Sugar Loaf. Meetings with BBNP re various cases.

					<p>Ongoing liaison with contractors, highways, Welsh Government and other partners re active travel programmes.</p> <p>Shared MCC Countryside Access Furniture Guide with Gloucestershire CC. MCC ROW Biodiversity Guide with Welsh Coast Authorities.</p> <p>Attendance of National Access Forum Wales meetings</p>
Resourcing – Ensure adequate resources for funding of CAIP by securing additional resources from internal and external sources that help achieve the objectives within this plan.	FF5 25.0				<p>Section 106, Living Levels funding and flood grant carried forward to this year.</p> <p>Capital carried forward from 2020.</p> <p>Access Improvement Grant, ODPNT, Welsh Coast obtained</p> <p>New Gwent Green Bid obtained for next two years.</p>
Seek to maintain and improve the delivery of the countryside access service through charging for activity where admissible	FF5 25.3		Ongoing review		<p>Q1 Rogiet country park installed payment machines</p>
Periodically review operational policies in response to legislative change.	FF27.2				<p>Continuous review of effects of covid on operations and legislation available.</p>

									Continual watch on legislative access proposals, new Agricultural Bill and other relevant legislation.
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Indicator	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Target	Actual 2021/22 Q1	Actual 2021/22 Q2	Actual 2021/22 Q3	Actual 2021/221 Q4	Comments
Countryside Access Volunteer hours (direct volunteers)	3089.5 +1326 recorded indirect (1)	3294 Direct 2265.5 Indirect 1028.5							Q1 volunteers stopped due to covid lockdown.
Countryside Access Indirect volunteering groups supported)	13	11	11		13				
Resolved ROW enforcement issues in year	1648	1750	1797		1804				
Unresolved ROW enforcement issues	1339	1365	3282		1517				
Percentage of ROW enforcements issues resolved (cumulative)	55.17	56.18%	54.75%		54.32%				
Resolved ROW maintenance issues in year	6594	6971	7160		7178				
Unresolved ROW maintenance issues	3370	3592	3745		3907				
Percentage of ROW maintenance issues resolved (cumulative)	66.18	65.99%	65.66%		64>75%				

Indicator	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Target	Actual 2021/22 Q1	Actual 2021/22 Q2	Actual 2021/22 Q3	Actual 2021/221 Q4	Comments
Green Flag Award status awarded/maintained	3	3	3	3					Annual assessment of selected sites through annual applications (currently 3)