

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.

Summary

- 88% of Wales Coast Path visitors agree that using the path had contributed to their appreciation of Wales and its culture.
- 96% of Wales Coast Path visitors said they enjoyed the path
- 45% of Wales Coast Path visitors cited the ability to be able to relax and unwind while on the path was a motivation for walking.
- In July 4409 Strava users took 11840 trips
- Wales Coast Path and Usk Valley Walk has seen a sustained increase in usage
- Over 750 trees have been planted on MonLife Countryside Access sites by volunteers in 2021
- 12 Volunteer Walk Leaders have taken 60 people on 7 walks to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail
- £305 raised for Children In Need by Countryside Access Team Walk and Talk Event
- New Monmouthshire Local Access Forum supported holding 4 meetings on-line
- New Ramblers Cymru Paths for Well-Being scheme promoted
- 35 bird boxes and 9 bat boxes have been erected on Castle Meadows in Abergavenny
- 750ms of path improvements were carried out at Rogiet Countryside Park to improve the surface for park run and other site users.
- Over 200 more Land Charge Searches responded to in 11 months, than in 2021
- 22 Legal Orders in process
- One new recycled plastic boardwalk installed in Shirenewton
- 1810 enforcement issues on public rights of way resolved
- 96.58% of cropping issues resolved on public rights of way
- 7303 maintenance issues on public rights of way resolved
- 3,000+ clearance issues resolved
- 540+ Bridge issues resolved

- £102,714 spent on Countryside Access Improvements with Welsh Government Grant
- Three Active Travel Projects supported

Comments received “ *Please thank the Mon CC Team for the excellent gates fitted just off A466 towards bottom of Bayfield. They will be much appreciated by local people for easy use and especially as the stiles were not in a good state.*” From Member of Public

“Thank you for getting the restricted byway cleared. They did a wonderful job and left it not only looking better than I have ever seen it but their work was so tidy.” Local landowner

“It is some time now since I have been to visit my husband’s memorial bench. A friend who walks the Meadow regularly with her dog had told me that there had been some damage to the bench caused by what she thought was someone lighting a bar-b-que on it. Yesterday was my husband’s birthday and my daughter went to visit the bench expecting to see some damage. Much to her surprise, the bench had been repaired. I want to express my genuine thanks to you for organising this and your team for carrying out this work, I am extremely grateful. I am looking forward to visiting the Meadows and using the bench during the summer months.”

Monmouthshire Careers Walk – Blackrock September 2021

A big thank you for yesterday’s walk. We both enjoyed it very much, so much we will go back again. It was lovely to finally get outside again to meet up and chat with other people. The walk was so interesting and gave me some much needed downtime.

Re Rogiet Parkrun (we have been improving the route over past two years)

From Mr Edwards: The quickest stretch, With an early yawn. Maybe a summer breeze, or a frosty morn. A welcoming Park, For runners to share. The perfect course, Running shoes to wear. An inspiring place, A wonderful sight. The Rogiet Parkrun, A countryside delight.

Mr B A lovely parkrun! A great asset for the local community.

2021 – 22 was another year of covid lockdowns and rules which has affected delivery. The Team also went through a few changes. We had a new Enforcement Officer and the Rights of Way Officer was replaced. The Countryside site Warden chose to take part retirement and his job was amended to Countryside Access Management Officer. This post is now job shared by two officers. It takes on the management of the volunteer and maintenance team. The Rights of Way Officer post has been vacant since January 2022 as the post holder has temporarily been seconded to the Regional Access Officer post for delivering the Gwent Green Grid Partnership.

Community Involvement – Q1 saw discussions on whether groups would restart. 9 groups started in q1 which is down on pre-covid numbers, but by q4 we were back up to 11 groups (with more expressing an interest in joining). Penallt group have been developing their circular walk and installing signage. The North are undertaking work parties again to clear and sign rights of way in their area. Friends of Castle Meadows undertook work parties in the Copse (tree planting and fencing) and have facilitated school visits. Friends of Rogiet Countryside Park undertook site checks and litter picks. Warren Slade litter champions also undertook a community litter pick. Volunteer training and some work parties also took place. Guided walks have also resumed. Importantly a report was prepared for Cabinet and a bid for a full time Community Links Officer to develop countryside volunteering opportunities/communications and help to maintain or improve the number of low priority issues resolved on the rights of way network.

Well Maintained Public Rights of Way Network and Countryside Sites - Castle Meadows received a Green Flag Award, reflecting its importance to the local community. Counter data showed that public rights of way and our sites have continued to be used by more of the local population than pre covid. This therefore has meant a rise in the number of issues reported to over 10,000 issues this year. Despite the increase in the numbers of reported issues we have resolved (71.31%) 1101 of 1544 reported issues. This is effectively a small but slight improvement on previous years. Enforcement has also seen a yearly rise in issues reported. This year there were 506 issues reported of which 259 (51.19%) were resolved. Cropping enforcement remains a success with 95.78% of all reported issues being dealt with. Cropping was previously an issue that was of concern to the public in our pre-Countryside Access Improvement Plan surveys. Obstacles, signage and stiles remain a problem with a backlog of issues remaining. Bridge issues have again been targeted for works where possible, as closed bridges or missing bridges make a large part of the network inaccessible. This year 551 bridges were repaired, removed or replaced. 310 bridge issues remain to be resolved. One of these is the bridge over the Trothy on the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail which had to be closed as it was found to be unsafe. Funding is being sourced for its removal and replacement over the next two years. In the meantime, a temporary diversion is in place.



The Wales Coast Path was maintained partly through a grant administered by Natural Resources Wales. This helped improve the safety fencing and surfacing at Black Rock Picnic site.

£102,427 of path improvement projects were funded via the Welsh Government Access Improvement Grant. These were:

- Enabling volunteers – purchase of First Aid kits and tools and the installation of a new footbridge (GR 513095)
- 420m of surfacing at Rogiet Countrypark
- 4 bridge inspections and 4 new bridges
- Two 9m bridges and surfacing on Wye Valley Walk
- Surfacing on Drybridge Park (to be completed in 2022/23)
- Surfacing and clearance on Bridleway at Trellech Common
- GR 476937 Improvements to boardwalks and surfacing to path (provides safe route to school)
- Celebrations for 10TH Birthday of WCP – purchase of new bench, poem, art, fingerpost and interpretation panel.

Photos of Shirenewton Improvements before and after works



Active Healthy Lifestyles - The Countryside Access Team has worked with the MonLife Active Travel Officers to provide opportunities for improving the accessibility of the network and to make it easier for people to incorporate walking and cycling in their every day lives.

Many public rights of way are on the active travel list for improving. This year AT funding continued for Castle Meadows and the Greenway. More information can be found on the active travel web pages of Monlife. The Countryside Access Team has also responded to other consultations on active travel routes that affect sites or rights of way and is working where necessary on legal orders to upgrade or divert paths, such as on Williamsfield Lane.

Knowing Whats out There. - The team continue to process applications for orders amending the rights of way network or requests for information including many Land Searches. Consultations are available on the Council's website, along with a register of modification orders and temporary closures .

Countryside access also contributed to Black Rock and other educational resources. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9pLEZa7wC4>



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 Q2 Figures required re-submitted to WG. Still waiting authorisation from WG to spend grant. Q4 Approval to spend arrived too late in year to procure materials or undertake works. Requested carry over funding.
Drybridge Park, Monmouth. Footpath surfacing 100m, signage and bridge improvements. Making route more accessible to all, throughout year.	WM1	Countryside Access	Q3 October 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £4,300	Q2 Procurement checks Q3 October Tender received Q4 Contractor started works was then stopped as change in requirement by NRW for consent approval. Now waiting for FRAPP approval before commencing works on site.

Rogiet Country Park - 420m 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 end March 2022	WG Access Improvement Grant £23,100	Q2 Quotes and procurement Q3 October tender received works to commence ASAP Q4 Works completed in park
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 £18,067 MCC Capital	Q1 522 resolved bridge issues from 831 received. 5 new bridges installed at Sandhouse, Panty Goytre, Llanvair Kilgedin, Llantrisant. Q2 Resolved 535 (63.61%) of 841 issues received. New bridges installed at Walnut Tree Farm llandegvedd and Magor. Temporary closures on website updated. Q3 October Waiting tenders to order bridges. Contractor employed to check safety and prepare programme for replacing bridge on ODPNT River Trothy. This had to be closed for safety reasons and promoted route diverted. Q4 4 replacement bridges (to be installed in summer 2022 at Olway (9m), 3cw (4m), Usk Valley Walk (10m) & Llanfoist (4.5m) and 8 H frames delivered to compound with WG funding.
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 £19,450	Q2 Surfacing procurement completed and tender expected October. Q3 November awarding contract and surfacing to take place asap.

					Q4 surfacing stopped whilst waiting FRAPP, but H frames and two 9 m bridges purchased for installation
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 £3,074.12	Q2 October some groups starting again. Q3 Liaison with Volunteer groups re priorities for materials /installation. Q4 30 waymark posts installed by St Arvans Volunteer Group. First Aid kits and tools purchased. Bridge installed
Trellech Common (Trellech to New Mills) Improve and upgrade surface of bridleway 100m	Wm1 1.8ah1 7.1 ah1 7.5	Countryside Access	Q4 March 2022	WG Access Improvement Grant £5,000	Q2 part of large-scale surfacing procurement tender Q4 Surfacing completed March 2022
Shirenewton Location GR 476937 Improve 40m surface/drainage of a footpath, which connects the Primary school with the Recreation Centre and Grounds.	WM1.1	Countryside Access	Q3 September 2021	WG Access Improvement Grant £8,049.98	Q2 Procurement works Q3 Tenders received waiting for contractor to start work. Q4 Handrails fitted to boardwalks. Path surfaced and steps improved. Now able to be a good safe route to school and forms part of local circular walk (being developed with s106 funding).
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. Attended ODPNT Liasion Group to discuss implications of National Trail Alliance. First Clearance contract underway. One guided walk held on 25 th September 2021 from Redbrook to Monmouth. Q3 Second clearance taking place. Emergency 6 month bridge closure and

					diversion in place. Design work, consents etc to replace bridge underway. 6 guided walks planned 2 per month until December. Q4 grant bid made for 2022-23. Ongoing clearance and maintenance to furniture and signage.
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 Wales Coast Path 10th Birthday Improvements at both ends of path	WM1 1.10, WM3 4.6	Countryside Access, NRW, WG, landowners, Cadw Flintshire CC, MCC Countryside Access, NRW, WG,	Ongoing, but q4 to complete grant ongoing	Wales Coast Path Grant £21,974 of which £700 100% grant aided and rest 75%. Balance made up by MCC WG Access Improvement Grant £21,672	Q1 Regional meeting Q2 vegetation clearance underway. Meetings with Redrow and Cadw re Sudbrook Hill Fort improvements Q3 October grant claim made. Tender completed for surfacing at Black Rock. Pre order making consultations for route re-alignments St Pierre to Mathern. Q4 surfacing completed at Black Rock. This project started in January 2022. Interpretation Panel was designed and purchased, along with special finger post and metal logo plaques for both Flintshires site and at Chepstow. The poet Lauret was commissioned and developed a poem for the Wales Coast Path. In addition, an artist was commissioned and designed pieces of art to show the poem at both ends of the path. We also commissioned a 10 th birthday cast iron bench and audio interpretation. The First Minister visited Chepstow in May 2022 to talk about the

					future of the coast and to reveal the poem and bench. Installation of all items is expected to take place in late June 2022 where there will be another event to unveil the works.
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 Access Forums & other partners	19 May 2021 to 2023	Tbc	Q2 Torfaen CBC Appointing officer Brand completed. Q3 Publicity for project. MCC appointing access officer. Torfaen recruiting apprentice rangers. Interviews November Q4 Prow officer in Countryside Access Team interviewed and seconded to role of Regional Access Officer. Drafting LAF requirements, checking works completed and identifying projects for 2022-23 improvements
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?	Q2 Meetings held with all parties and improvements agreed. Signage being costed and installed. Q3 Final signage and promotional/educational materials to take place. Q4 Enforcement by Licensing.
Severnside Footpath – measures to prevent or reduce anti-social behaviour and supporting	Wm3 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 5.2				Ongoing case:- 6 month extension to closure order made. New Enforcement Officer in post. Draft report on routes and historic evidential use completed.

responsible safe use by tenants and public					Continuous liaison with Police, NRW & others over various issues. Landowner and Occupier approached re potential diversion solution. Public consultation launched November. Report finalised q4. Closure notices replaced
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 Q3 October received confirmation of WCP agreement to new “to wales coast path” signage. Q4 Signage installed. Legacy projects discussed. Circular routes completed.
Green Infrastructure Improvements Wye Valley AONB Nature based & wider landscape initiatives to address long-term highway issues, flooding and secure multi- purpose access routes within Wye Valley.	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 Wye Valley AONB	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. Q4 Seeking funding
Wye Valley AONB Access Improvements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wye Valley Walk bank/erosion project in Wyesham Monmouth 	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	Q1 Clearance of Wordsworth route at Cleddon and opening up of one of the historic drainage channels above Tanglewood to encourage peak flows into the brook rather than the path.

2. Wordsworth Walk Improvements				landowner contribution	<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 70.23% (1111) issues on prowl network and 252 (52.50%) enforcement issues</p> <p>Q2 Procurement processes and Tenders written for surfacing projects. Still waiting to see if flooding grant confirmed. New bridges installed at Llandegvedd and Magor. Closures on website updated. Cutting contracts underway and 1st clearance of vegetation. 2685 (78.60%) of reported clearance issues resolved. Resolved 1772 (49.57%) of signage, 535 (63.61%) bridges, 271 (61.73%) surface, 641 (74.88% gate, 1077 (64.07%), 735 (96.58%) cropping and 1433 (52.78%) of other issues reported in quarter. Resolved 253 of 498 enforcement issues and 1139 (70.83%) of 1608 maintenance issues</p> <p>Q4 Reported issues continue to rise. 269 enforcement issues were resolved out of 543 and in total 1215 maintenance issues</p>

					were resolved out of 1714 received. This includes the following following (% of issues) resolved issues:- 63.40% stiles, 74.80% gates, 63.49 surfacing, 78.74% clearance, 64% bridges, 49.61% signage, 95.78% cropping, 38.78% obstacles and 52.43% other.
Maintain countryside sites and prepare management plans	WM1 1.12	Countryside Access, Friends of Groups, Volunteers,	ongoing	<p>MCC revenue £20,000</p> <p>Warrenslade woodland management section 106 £9,119.50</p> <p>Section 106 Clydach Ironworks enhancement scheme £53,000</p>	<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 Clydach underway. Seeking additional funds for critical repairs to monument. Fishing Agreement in place for 2021/22. Tree Inspections for Ash Die Back. Installed 4 active travel counters on Castle Meadows, three at Clydach Ironworks .</p> <p>Q3 Team walk to launch Children In Need walks in Monmouthshire.</p> <p>Q4 Friends of the Parks have returned.</p>
Reduce cropping issues	Wm1 1.1	MCC, landowners, NFU, fuw	ONGOING (SEASONAL)	Existing Countryside Access budget	<p>Q1 97.742% cropping issues resolved</p> <p>Q2 735 (96.58%) of 761 cropping issues resolved.</p> <p>Q3 96.42% or 728 of 760 cropping issues resolved.</p>

					Q4 95.78% of cropping issues resolved leaving only 32 unresolved.
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. Q3 New Countryside code and Adventure Smart promoted with Children In Need Rambles.
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
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					Q3 1st October – 31 December Q4 January 2022 -31st 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. Liaison with landowners. Q3 Public consultation to take place November. Q4 1 meeting on site, ongoing research and evidence gathering for planning submission and reports for WG.
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. Q3 October received confirmation funding allocated. Public consultation launched with Dixon Rd Scheme 18 October.
Active Travel Consultation	Ahl1 7.0 AHL2 8.4		June/July 2021		Q1 Reviewed active travel routes q2 consultation to LAF July 2021 Officer meeting to review changes
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. Q4 Seeking to assist with legal orders

Usk Railway Path creation of cycleway	Ahl1 7.0	Highways	2021/22	£20,000	Project being dealt with by Highways/Active Travel Officer. 20k allocated to try and find a way forward for scheme. Unsuccessful with Active Travel Bid for funding to deliver project. Looking for alternative funding.
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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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
Maintain public 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. Q3

					reviewing and updating application pack and consultation list Q4 Orders now being made again.
Review of Modification Prioritisation programme	KWOT 11.3	Monlife countryside access	Winter 2022		
process and make temporary closure notices as required	KWOT2 12.4 P	Monlife Countryside Access, Legal Services, WG	ongoing	Existing resources and applicant recharge	Ongoing 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. Q4 Consultation and report for firing ranges completed. Several orders waiting to go to committee.
advice re planning applications	KWOT2 12.1	MonLife Countryside Access	ongoing	EXISTING	Q1 190 LAND CHARGE SEARCHES completed (compared to 108 last year) Q2 244 Land Charge Orders completed Q3 Tree and hedgerow land charges moved to planning. Rights of Way Land charges ongoing. Q4 land charges ongoing
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 Monmouthshire and make information accessible	Kwot4 14.5	NRW, MonLife Destination Management and Countryside Access	December 2021	existing	No progress due to covid and increased demands on staff time elsewhere
Review of signage across MonLife sites	KWOT 16.2	MonLife Countryside Access	completed	Covid funding	Q1/2 Installed new entrance signage on sites. Covid signage amended as necessary throughout year

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

Projects	CAIP reference	Who	When	Resources	What has been done? (see also newsletters) Q1 1st April –June 30th Q2 1st July to 30 September Q3 1st October – 31 December Q4 January 2022 -31st March 2022
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	Ramblers Cymru, Llanbadoc Community Council, MCC Countryside	TBC – affected by Covid Estimated new gates in place autumn 2021	Ramblers funding and Access Improvement Grant Funding	Q2 September. Ramblers confirm Paths for Well Being Project going ahead. MCC training Ramblers Cymru regional officer to install gates on Geology route Q3 Final draft publication produced.

	20.2, pw1 21.7	Access, Landowners			On hold due to lack of officer resources in RA Cymru
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	See GI Team delivery plan
Mark My Paths , Pilot project for Wales. Training volunteers and identifying important missing signage. Working with communities to resolve.	WM1.3 & CI1 18.1	Ramblers Cymru, Volunteers, MCC Countryside Access and Torfaen CBC	January 2020 – March 2021		Q1 surveys underway and records being updated q2 Discussions with Ramblers & Grosmont Walkers re improvements in their area. Q3 Findings of surveys show 50% of signage missing in Torfaen and Monmouthshire. Lessons learnt from projects to be published. Q4 Meeting with RA Cymru re new grant funding project and ability to co-ordinate training to deliver signage works on ground.
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	£3,074.12 Welsh Government Improvement Grant	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 North 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. Q3 October GDAS returned. 5 Circular routes identified for improvements with Paths for Well-Being Ramblers project in Grosmont. Q4 First Aid Kits and tools purchased for volunteers including brush cutters and strimmers. 10 + waymark posts installed by St Arvans Group.
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. Links to Penallt Volunteer Group Promotion of new circular route (Buzzard) .	AHL 1 7.2	The Narth Volunteer Group, Mon Life Countryside Access and NRW	ongoing	Existing resources	Unable to progress to autumn 2021 due to staff capacity limitations
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 Q2 cams upgrades being tested. New servers now in place and QGIS.
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A Prosperous Wales: To maximise the economic benefits of countryside access

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

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
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. Ongoing dialogue and updates with Regional Coast Path Officer. 4 th March WCP Review meeting attended. March 17 th NT/WCP Grants meeting for LA attended. Various WCP 10 TH Anniversary meetings attended.

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. Ongoing liaison with contractors, highways, Welsh Government and other partners re active travel programmes.

					<p>Shared MCC Countryside Access Furniture Guide with Gloucestershire CC and MCC ROW Biodiversity Guide with Welsh Coast Authorities.</p> <p>Attendance of National Access Forum Wales meetings (on going)</p> <p>Attendance at Offa's Dyke Path Partnership meeting re National Trails Partnership</p> <p>Q3 Meeting with CADW to discuss potential projects in 2022. Living Levels legacy meetings being held.</p> <p>Q4 Meeting with Ramblers Cymru re volunteering and grants. Various meetings with Gwent LA's for GGGP.</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>

					Potential CADW funding identified for route improvements in 2022 at Clydach and Langwm. Access elements and £ from Gwent Green Grid Partnership grant identified and looking at potential legacy.
Seek to maintain and improve the delivery of the countryside access service through charging for activity where admissible	FF5 25.3			Ongoing review	Q1 Rogiet country park installed payment machines Q3 Reviewing charges for legal orders
Periodically review operational policies in response to legislative change.	FF27.2				Continuous review of effects of covid on operations and legislation available. continual watch on legislative access proposals, new Agricultural Bill and other relevant legislation. Attendance at Wales Rights of Way Officer meetings/emails and the National Access Forum Wales meetings.

Indicator	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Target	Actual 2021/22 Q1	Actual 2021/22 Q2	Actual 2021/22 Q3	Actual 2021/22 Q4	Comments
Countryside Access Volunteer hours (direct volunteers)	3089.5 +1326 recorded indirect (1)	3294 Direct 2265.5			81.5	650	559.5	815.5	Total indirect hours in 2021/22 was 819 hours and the total of volunteer hours was 2106.5

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		Indirect 1028.5							hours. This is up on last years but still less than pre covid.
Countryside Access Indirect volunteering groups supported)	13	11	11		9	9	10	11	Groups now back up to pre covid levels and new volunteer and community groups on list to start pending training etc when new Community Links officer appointed.
Resolved ROW enforcement issues in year	1648	1750	1797		1804	1810	1827		A slight increase in resolving issues but negated by increase in reported issues growing backlog.
Unresolved ROW enforcement issues	1265	1339	1365		1517	1551	1580		Backlog of issues increased .
Percentage of ROW enforcements issues resolved (cumulative)	55.17	56.18%	54.75%		54.32%	53.85%	53.62%		
Resolved ROW maintenance issues in year	6594	6971	7160		7178	7303	7393		A slight increase in resolving issues but negated by the continued increase in reported issues.
Unresolved ROW maintenance issues	3370	3592	3745		3907	3888	3927		Reported issues continues to rise with more people walking.

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Percentage of ROW maintenance issues resolved (cumulative)	66.18	65.99%	65.66%		64.75%	65.26%	65.31%		Difficult to change this figure without additional resources
Green Flag Award status awarded/maintained	3	3	3	3		3			Annual assessment of selected sites through annual applications (currently 3)