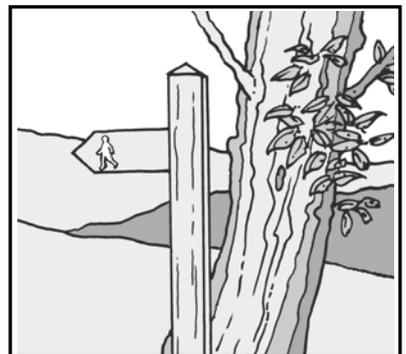
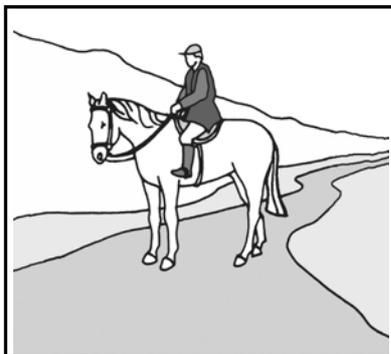
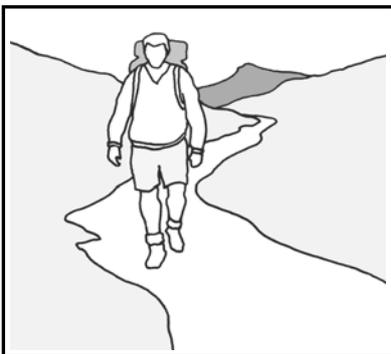




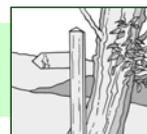
CEREDIGION

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Department of Environmental Services and Housing
Ceredigion County Council
September 2008

FOREWORD



Public rights of way provide one of the main means by which people can access and enjoy the countryside. At the same time the rights of way network is part of the local travel infrastructure, providing paths from people's homes to local facilities and places of work.

Providing access to our coast and countryside is an essential part of the rural tourism product in Ceredigion and the network of paths is a key economic asset. What's more, countryside access has an important role to play in health and well-being. Regular walking, cycling and horse riding can bring benefits through improving people's health in Wales.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan provides the means by which we can ensure that the rights of way network can fulfil its potential. The involvement of the community and partner organisations in the years ahead will be a key element in securing countryside access improvements that will benefit both the local community and visitors to Ceredigion.

As the Cabinet member with responsibility for Environmental Services and Housing and a member of Local Access Forum, I look forward to working with you to realise this vision.

*Cllr Gethin James
Cabinet Member
Environmental Services and Housing
September 2008*

VISION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



VISION

Ceredigion has a distinctive and diverse coast and countryside. The landscape, its habitats and wildlife, its history and culture are valuable assets - valued by local residents and visitors alike. The Rights of Way network offers unrivalled opportunities to enjoy these features. But the importance of the path network extends far beyond its value for access and enjoyment. It is an asset that promotes health and wellbeing and helps underpin the County's tourist economy.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is the means by which the County Council will plan and prioritise improvements to access in Ceredigion. By 2018 it is envisaged that the path network will be substantially opened and valued by all sections of the community. A continued improvement can only be achieved through the involvement of partners and the plan sets out the ways in which we can work together to achieve common goals.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan provides the means by the rights of way network fulfils its potential – offering high quality access to Ceredigion's coast and countryside.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for Ceredigion has been produced to meet the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. For the first time, local authorities have a legal requirement to plan for the better management of the rights of way network. In producing the plan the County Council has looked at the extent to the path network meets the present and future needs of the public; the opportunities it provides for countryside

access and recreation and its use by blind or partially sighted persons or others with mobility problems.

The Plan consists of two main parts - firstly, an assessment of local rights of way; and, secondly, a statement of action for the management and improvement of rights of way in Ceredigion.

The ROWIP assessments that have undertaken have looked into:

- The key links to other plans and strategies
- The Definitive Map and the legal framework for rights of way
- The condition of rights of way in Ceredigion
- The management of rights of way
- User needs
- Promotion of rights of way and access

There are some 2506 km (1566) miles of rights of way in Ceredigion. There are also large areas of 'Open Access' land and a range of countryside sites managed by various organisations.

Ceredigion's rights of way network and other areas that provide opportunities for countryside access are major assets. Public rights of way provide one of the main means by which people can access and enjoy the countryside. The network is of key importance to local regeneration – countryside access is a fundamental part of the rural tourism product. In addition, countryside access has an important role to play in health and well-being. Regular walking, cycling and horse riding can bring benefits through improving people's health in Wales. Rights of way and cycle routes also offer traffic-free routes from people's homes to local facilities and places of work.

But the condition of the network is not all that it should be. Indeed, a survey of rights of way by the CCW in 2002 pointed to the poor condition of rights of way across Wales and the associated costs of improving and maintaining the network. The study also highlighted that path management is under-resourced. Although the condition of rights of way in Ceredigion has improved in recent years, in 2007-08 only 41% of rights of way were categorised as being easily accessible (a figure which is below the Welsh average). As a result the network is not meeting its potential in providing opportunities for access and recreation, tourism, health and as a means of local transport.

Consideration is giving to approaches to path management and highlights matters that need to be addressed, notably the targeting of resources through a priority path network, access for the less-able and the way in which local communities are engaged in path management. The assessments also considered user needs, drawing on several studies. Consideration has been given the requirements of various types of user and the key reasons for not using the path network have been highlighted (obstructed paths and signposting).

Finally, publicity and promotion of access opportunities has been considered. Information on well maintained path networks – for a range of users – is

fundamental to ensuring that tourism and recreation opportunities are maximised.

The assessments carried out have underpinned the development of an action plan that gives the framework for decisions on actions to be taken by the County Council over the next 10 years.

A principal component of the ROWIP is the 'Statement of Action' which seeks to reflect the aspirations of path users and sets a framework for the sustained improvement of the path network over the next 10 years. It provides a basis for funding decisions and presents many opportunities for working in partnership with organisations with an interest in countryside access, health and well-being and rural regeneration.

The statement of action is built around five inter-related themes for the management and improvement of rights of way and access in Ceredigion. The themes contained within the statement of action are:

- Maintaining the Definitive Map.
- Managing the Rights of Way network
- Meeting the needs of users, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems.
- Working in partnership
- Raising awareness about rights of way and access

The ROWIP actions are strategic in nature although in some instances are path or site specific. In many instances actions will be developed through the production of annual programmes and detailed action plans. The identification of a priority path network gives a focus for action to improve rights of way and access opportunities in Ceredigion. Resources need to be used to best effect and the categorisation of the various types of route can help ensure that staff inputs and funding are directed to best effect. Resources, including external funding, are essential for the delivery of the ROWIP although there can of course be no guarantee that funding will be available in full.

The production of the ROWIP is a statutory duty and, although its implementation is not, there is an expectation that the Council will seek to ensure that the plan is delivered. The statement of action is ambitious and challenging and will require the continued backing of national and local government and other organisations. Resources for path management have been emphasised but progress will be also be achieved through improved efficiency, adopting best practice, partnership working and through the support and engagement of the local community.

It will be necessary to review the ROWIP and 'roll-forward' the action plan for the latter part of the 10 year plan period.

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PART 1



1.1 WHAT IS THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN?

Ceredigion County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). For the first time, local authorities have a legal requirement to plan strategically for the development, better management and promotion of their existing local rights of way and changes or additions to the rights of way network.

In producing the plan, the Council has assessed:

- a. The extent to which rights of way meet the present and future needs of the public;
- b. The opportunities provided by public rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and enjoyment;
- c. The accessibility of public rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons or others with mobility problems;

The Plan consists of two main elements - firstly, **an assessment** of local rights of way; and, secondly, a **statement of action** for the management and improvement of rights of way in Ceredigion.

To guide plan production, the County Council produced a ROWIP framework in 2004. This framework was subject to consultation with community councils and organisations and groups with an interest in access. The framework also set out the assessments that would be undertaken. The assessments have helped to inform the production of the plan. They have explored the policy influences that have a bearing on the management of rights of way and access, the legislative framework and the needs of users. A summary of the six assessments is provided in Part 2 of the Plan.

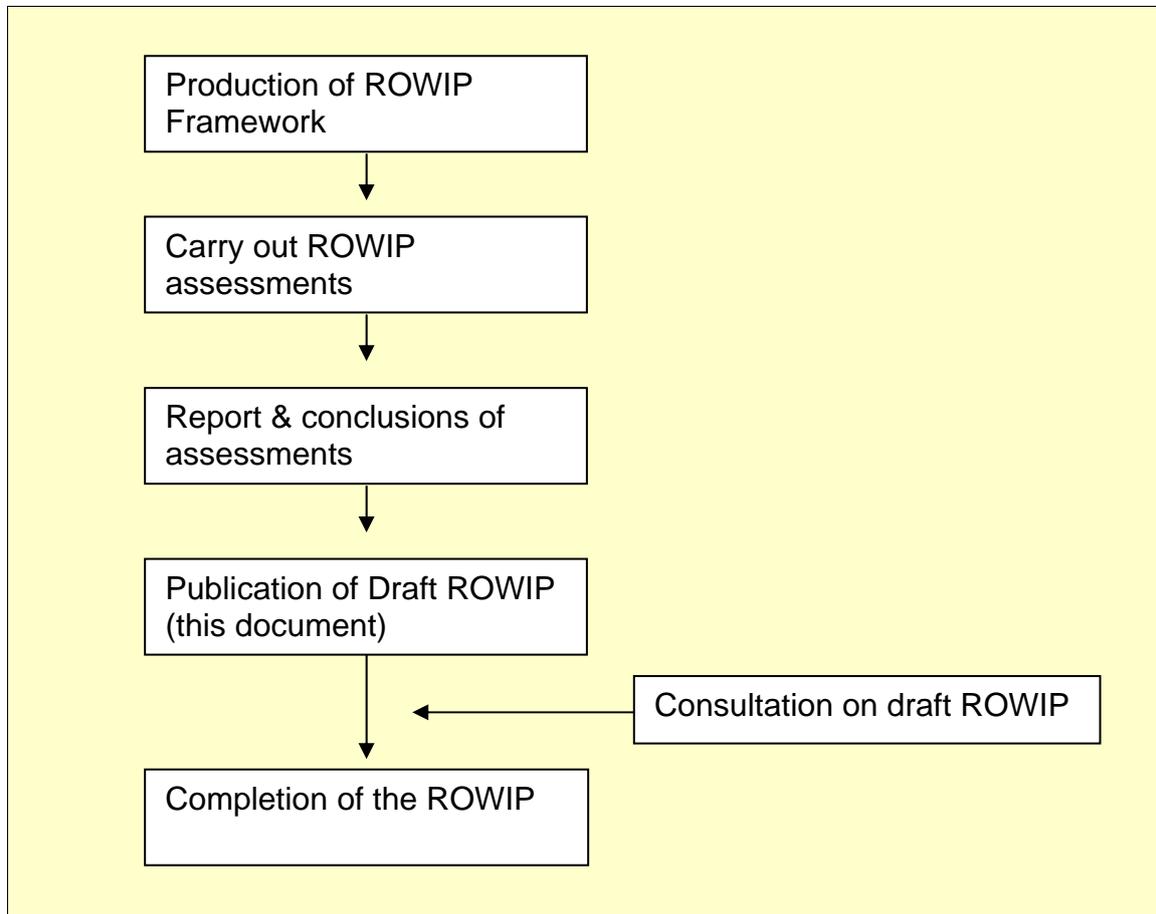
Consultation was undertaken on the draft Ceredigion ROWIP was earlier this year (the consultation period was between 24th April and 18th June 2008). A Public Notice was placed in the Cambrian News on 24th April 2008 and the draft plan was circulated to a wide range of organisations, including community councils in Ceredigion. The draft ROWIP was also available on the County Council web site at Council Offices and at libraries. The Ceredigion Local Access Forum has provided invaluable assistance and advice at all stages of plan production.

A summary of the responses made to the draft ROWIP has been produced¹ consultation responses

¹ The report on consultation on the draft ROWIP is available on the County Council web site.

The process followed by the County Council in the production of the ROWIP reflects the guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG): this is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: How the ROWIP has being produced



Rights of Way Improvement Plans are the prime means by which local authorities will identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to their local rights of way network – and in doing so make better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems. The Plans also takes account of the significant amount of new access land that has become available in Wales under the CROW Act.

The ROWIP performs a number of important roles. It provides:

- the strategic framework for managing rights of way and access in Ceredigion;
- the basis for resource decisions and the underpinning of funding bids;
- the basis for devising work programmes for rights of way and access; and
- the means by which the local community and other partners can engage in the process of rights of way and access management in Ceredigion.

1.2 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

European Union Directive 2001 / 42 / EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (commonly referred to as the SEA Directive) requires formal environmental assessment during production of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Directive has been incorporated into Welsh law by virtue of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA regulations).

When carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the environmental effects of a plan, including alternatives proposed, need to be considered as early in the plan preparation process as possible.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plans Guidance to Local Highway Authorities in Wales, published by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2002, makes no mention of any SEA screening requirements relating to ROWIPs. However, CCW informed the Authorities in 2008 (as part of their consultation response to the draft ROWIP) that the plan falls under Article 2a of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

By this time all ROWIP Assessments had been undertaken and the draft plan published and consulted on. The Countryside Council for Wales advised that the Authority should either include a screening statement justifying why SEA has not been undertaken; or include a statement justifying why no screening exercise has been undertaken.

The Authority has responded by preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, which is included in this document as Appendix 7. It is concluded that the ROWIP does not require Strategic Environmental Assessment. It should be noted that specific programmes that derive from the ROWIP may be subject to SEA.

1.3 A PROFILE OF CEREDIGION

Ceredigion is a predominantly rural county covering an area of 1,795 square kilometres with a population of 78,280 people (2005, mid year estimate). It is a predominantly rural county and contains six main towns; Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Cardigan and Llandysul, Lampeter and Tregaron. Many staying tourists and day visitors are attracted by the County's high quality coast, scenery and wildlife. In 2005 there were a total of 2.8 million tourists to Ceredigion, with just over half of this total being day visitors (1.45 million)².

Ceredigion contains the following broad categories of landscape / topography:

² 'STEAM' Report 2006. More information available the County Council's tourism web site.

- **Cardigan Bay coastline** - stretching for 60 miles (96 km) between the Dyfi and Teifi estuaries. The coastline includes a wide range of shoreline types, including the dune system at Ynyslas, storm beaches, sandy bays and high cliffs. A substantial proportion of the coast is undeveloped, four sections of which are designated as Heritage Coast because of their exceptional landscape quality. Two areas of Cardigan Bay are Marine Special Areas of Conservation because of their importance for biodiversity.
- **Cambrian Mountains** - a remote upland plateau dominated by Pumlumon Fawr (2468 feet / 752 metres in height) stretching along the length of the County and into neighbouring Powys. The Cambrian Mountains comprise large areas of upland pasture and moorland (including substantial tracts of Common Land) and large coniferous plantations. The area is deeply dissected by the valleys of the Rivers Rheidol and Ystwyth and their tributaries.
- **River valleys** - the Teifi, Aeron, Ystwyth, Rheidol and Dyfi which descend through steep-sided gorges near their sources in the Cambrian Mountains, eventually forming broad flood plains as they reach the Ceredigion coast.
- **Undulating countryside** - a landscape characterised by small farms and features moulded by agricultural practices over many generations; an intricate field pattern with hedgerows and woodlands. These features give way to open moorland and coniferous plantations at Mynydd Bach and on the fringes of the Cambrian Mountains.

These areas contains a rich variety of habitats – including sea cliffs, sand dunes, wetlands, woodland and upland pasture – that support a number of rare or vulnerable species. The County’s rich biodiversity is reflected by a large number of sites covered by statutory nature conservation designations and other ‘informal’ sites such as Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Trust sites.

Ceredigion’s countryside derives essentially from the impact of agriculture. This activity has shaped its landscape; it manages land as well as underpinning the social and cultural identity of rural areas.

The County’s landscape is also rich in historical and archaeology features. These features are valuable resources in themselves and they also hold a fascination for local people and visitors in exploring the countryside. The ‘Spirit of the Miners’ project has demonstrated the way in which the metal mining historic landscape (in this case the metal mining heritage of north Ceredigion) can be appreciated through the development of path networks linked to associated publicity. Similarly, the Coast Path project has offered a means to highlight the important maritime heritage of the Ceredigion coast.

The County includes two ‘historic landscapes’ (identified in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales³). The first of these is Upland

³ Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS (UK)(International Council on Monuments and Sites) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

Ceredigion, an area that includes prehistoric to recent mining remains and settlements; Sarn Helen; Strata Florida Abbey; Drover's routes and the setting for Thomas Johnes's Hafod. The second is the Lower Teifi Valley. Its historic interest is centered on its Bronze Age remains; mediaeval secular, ecclesiastical and defended sites and recent gentry houses.

These features provide a rich resource for the development and promotion of countryside access opportunities.

1.4 THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS

Public rights of way provide one of the main means by which people can access and enjoy the countryside. At the same time the rights of way network is part of the local travel infrastructure. Paths and cycle routes provide traffic-free routes from people's homes to local facilities and places of work. In doing so the network of routes can make a contribution to reducing the use of cars for short distance trips that could be made on foot or on bicycle.

Rights of way are of key importance to local regeneration – a number of studies have shown the value that rights of way and access bring rural economy. Spending by walking visitors is estimated to bring over £550 million into its rural and coastal economies in Wales⁴. Similarly, horse riding and cycling make important contributions to local economies.

Figure 2 – The importance of countryside access

- The UK Day Visits Survey 1996 revealed that:
 - 33% of countryside visits in the UK were for walking, hill-walking and rambling.
 - Within this total, 53% were for short walks, 45% for long walks (over 2 miles) and 2% for hill-walking;
 - The number of visits to the countryside for walking, hill-walking and rambling had increased from 363m in 1993 to 447m in 1996.
- In Wales, 51% of people in Wales walk regularly for pleasure.⁵
- The British Horse Society has estimated that 4.5% of the UK population are regular horse riders.
- There are some 39% of households in Wales that own a cycle⁶. A Countryside Agency study suggested that 32% of households would increase cycling as an activity if more provision was available.
- The Defra report 'Making the Best of Byways' suggested a figure of about 15,000 recreational off-road vehicle drivers that are active in England and Wales.

⁴ Peter Midmore, 'The Economic Value of Walking in Rural Wales', 2000

⁵ National Opinion Poll, 1999.

⁶ WAG, Welsh Transport Statistics, 2000

In Ceredigion, countryside access is a fundamental part of the rural tourism product in the County and the network of paths is a key economic asset (see Figure 2). In addition, countryside access has an important role to play in health and well-being. Regular walking, cycling and horse riding can bring benefits through improving people's health in Wales.

1.5 RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS PROVISION

Public Rights of Way

The total length of recorded public rights of way in Ceredigion is 2506 km (1566 miles). This figure represents 7.5% of the Wales total. Most of these routes are public footpaths (66%). The lengths of types of rights of way, including comparisons by proportionate length, are shown in the table below.

The categories of rights of way and their legal uses on public rights of way are as follows:

- Public Footpaths: a footpath is a highway over which the public have a right of way on foot.
- Bridleways: a bridleway is a highway over which there is a right of way on foot, riding or leading a horse or cycling.
- Restricted Byways: a right of way on foot, riding or leading a horse or cycling together with a right for vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles, with or without the right to drive animals (formerly Roads Used as Public Paths).
- Byways Open to all Traffic (BOAT): a byway is a right of way which is open to all types of users, (including use by horse drawn and motor vehicles) but which is used mainly for the purposes for which footpaths and bridleways are used.

Figure 3 - Rights of Way in Ceredigion ⁷

Category	Rights of Way by length		
	Km	Miles	%
Footpath	1663	1039	66%
Bridleway	522	326	21%
Restricted Byway *	308	193	12%
BOAT	13	8	1%
Totals:	2506	1566	100%

* formerly RUPPs.

⁷ As at August 2005

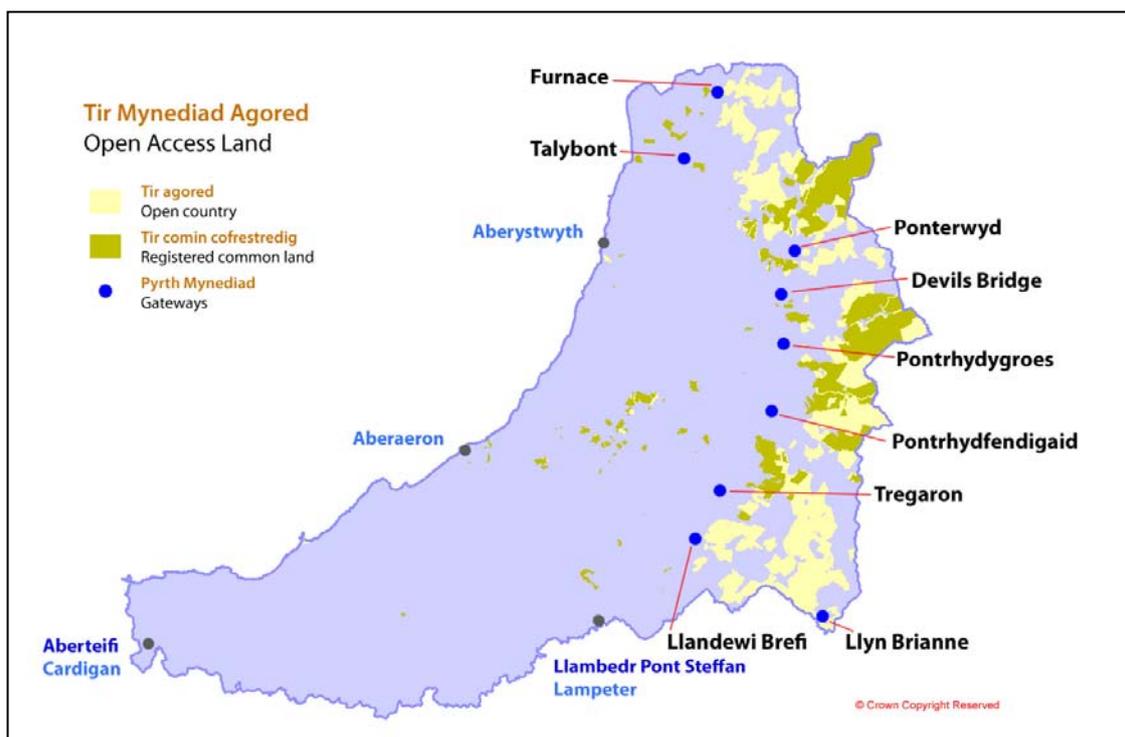
Access Land

The CROW Act 2000 introduced a new right of access to 'open access land' (including land over 600 metres, mountain, moor, heath and down and common land). This right came into effect in May 2005. In Ceredigion, 'access land' amounts to 25,993 hectares – 14.2% of the County's land area. Much of the new access land is within the Cambrian Mountains (some of which already has an existing right of access on account of it being Crown Common). Outside this broad area, access land is generally limited to areas of common land.

Most areas of open access land are served by highways (adjoining roads or public rights of way) or are accessible from adjoining common land. A desk top survey of the 117 common land units in Ceredigion showed that 88% of sites can be accessed from rights of way, roads or adjoining Common Land. Whilst this is a high proportion, some of the rights of way serving common land may not in practice be open and available.

Since the introduction of these provisions, the Council has carried out limited programmes of improvements to rights of way leading into access land from key settlements and other locations ('gateways') around the fringes of the Cambrian Mountains. In addition, approaches to the management of access land have been developed to assist the user and to ensure good land management practice. In appropriate circumstances consideration will be given to the provision of gates / stiles; signposting; information panels and car parking.

Figure 4 – Open Access in Ceredigion



Other countryside sites accessible to the public

Ceredigion has a large number of access and wildlife sites managed by a number of national, regional and local organisations.

Many woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission are accessible to the public, some with car parking and other facilities, such as waymarked trails (the most important recreational sites being Nant y Arian and Hafod – these sites are popular with both walkers and horse riders). The Commission has also published information on woodland walks for a number of its sites. The Forestry Commission has dedicated many of its woodlands for public access under the CROW Act 2000. In these areas the public can enjoy the same statutory rights of access as on other ‘access land’.

There are seven National Nature Reserves wholly or partly in Ceredigion, managed by CCW and other conservation organisations. These sites provide an opportunity to enjoy their special wildlife interest. Improvements at Cors Caron NNR (Tregaron) have recently been carried out, including the development of an all-ability trail across the reserve.

The Council manages Local Nature Reserves at Parc Natur Penglais and Pendinas and Traeth Tan y Bwlch (Aberystwyth) together with other countryside sites that meet access and conservation objectives. There are a number of other sites that are available to the public managed by organisations including the National Trust, the Wildlife Trust South and West Wales, the Woodland Trust and others.

Other access opportunities are provided through Tir Gofal permissive access agreements and on private woodlands through agreements made under Forestry Commission grant programmes.

The location of sites accessible to the public is indicated in Appendix 2. In a number of instances access opportunities at these locations are highlighted through web sites, in guides and leaflets, information panels and other media. There is an opportunity to enhance links between the rights of way network and access sites and to raise the profile of sites through coordinated information provision.

PART 2



2.1 THE ROWIP ASSESSMENTS

The draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan is underpinned by a number of assessments that have looked into rights of way and access in the County. The assessments that have been undertaken are:

1. The strategic context for the management of rights of way;
2. The Definitive Map – the legal definition of public rights of way;
3. The condition of the rights of way network;
4. The management and protection of rights of way;
5. Assessments of user needs; and
6. Publicity and promotion of rights of way and access.

The assessments have been considered by the Ceredigion Local Access Forum and their comments have helped shaped their final content. A consultation exercise carried out in late 2006 (as part of a wider community consultation as part of 'Ceredigion 2020') provided valuable information on user needs and the aspirations of the local community for rights of way and access. User groups have also had an input into the process.

The key findings of the assessments are outlined in the following sections.

2.2 ASSESSMENT NO. 1: THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS OF WAY

Rights of way are part of the fabric of our towns, villages and rural areas. They make an important contribution in offering a means to enjoy the countryside and in providing access to the workplace, shops, schools and other facilities. The Rights of Way network is of wide strategic significance, and has an important role to play in the following policy areas:

- Sustainable development
- Planning
- Environment
- Economic development
- Tourism
- Transport
- Sport and active recreation
- Health and well-being

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan does not stand alone but sits alongside a large number of strategies and plans produced at both national and local levels. This policy framework determines the way in which resources are

allocated for rights of way and access. The management of the rights of way network is influenced by a raft of policy and guidance described fully in Assessment No. 1. The Assessment describes the way that these plans and policies help inform and guide the ROWIP. A number of these plans and strategies are of particular importance and these are listed in Figure 4 below (and in more detail in Appendix 4).

The delivery of key components of the Community Strategy ('Ceredigion 2020') and the Council's Corporate Plan will rely on the implementation of ROWIP proposals for the management and improvement of rights of way.

Figure 4 – Key policies and strategies

a. National and regional plans and strategies
<p>'Environment Strategy for Wales' WAG (2003)</p> <p>'Best Foot Forward' WTB (2003)</p> <p>'Saddling up for Success – a Riding Tourism Strategy for Wales' WTB (2003)</p> <p>'Coastal Tourism Strategy' WAG (to be published in 2008)</p> <p>'Cardigan Bay Action Plan' WAG (2007)</p> <p>'Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales' WAG (2003)</p> <p>'Regional Transport Plan', TraCC (to be published 2008-09)</p> <p>'Climbing Higher' WAG (2005)</p>
b. Local plans and strategies
<p>'Ceredigion 2020' Ceredigion 2020 Partnership (2005)</p> <p>'Corporate Strategy 2004-08' CCC (2004)</p> <p>'Ceredigion Unitary Development Plan', CCC (2006)</p> <p>'Ceredigion Tourism Growth Area (TGA) Implementation Plan', CCC (2002)</p> <p>'The Ceredigion Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy', CCC (2004)</p>

The County Council also produced a 'Coast and Countryside Strategy', covering the period 2000-2005. The Strategy was designed to provide a sustainable approach for the management of the County's coast and countryside resources, including the network of rights of way. The strategy highlighted the economic value of rights of way and access and sought to promote opportunities for enhanced access to the countryside.

Although the Strategy is no longer current, its objectives for the management of the countryside are nevertheless of relevance to the production of the ROWIP:

- to ensure that access opportunities and facilities are compatible with the County's character

- to ensure that rights of way are open, usable and publicised
- to ensure that countryside users are aware of the recreational opportunities
- to provide opportunities for countryside recreation for the less able
- to assist the needs of the rural economy, farm diversification and the development of rural tourism whilst taking care to minimise conflict where this occurs
- to encourage co-operation between organisations and groups involved in providing access opportunities.

In summary, the Ceredigion Rights of Way Improvement Plan has sought to translate national and local policies into effective action and to ensure:

- a) That the ROWIP recognises the importance of rights of way and access for recreation, tourism development, sustainable transport and health.
- b) A high profile for ROWIP actions within the Community Strategy.
- c) That ROWIP proposals are effectively integrated with other relevant local plans and strategies.
- d) Effective joint working within the authority and with partner organisations.
- e) That the development of ROWIP policies and actions maximises opportunities for securing additional funding for access initiatives.

2.3 ASSESSMENT NO. 2: THE DEFINITIVE MAP - THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 required County Councils in England and Wales to produce a Definitive Map and Statement for their area. Initially, a draft Definitive Map was produced (in consultation with Parish Councils) following which there was a period for objections and representations to be made. The Definitive Map was finally confirmed on 18th March 1966. The Definitive Map was produced at a scale of 2¹/₂ inches to the mile (1:25,000). The Definitive Map and Statement is held at the County Council offices at Penmorfa, Aberaeron.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 introduced the approach that replaced the review by providing for the continuous review of the Map. More recently, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has introduced further changes in respect of the closure of the Definitive Map to certain types of applications from 2026.

The Definitive Map and Statement is the legal record of public rights of way (public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic). If a way is shown on the Map, then that is conclusive evidence that the public had those rights along the way at the relevant date of the Map (18th March 1966), and continue to have those rights, unless there has been a legally authorised change. However, rights may exist over a way not shown on the Map at all, or additional rights may exist over a recorded route.

One of the effects of the Definitive Map is that it is conclusive as to what is recorded, but not as to what is not recorded. The CROW Act 2000 has dealt

with this issue by setting a cut-off date of 2026 by which claims that are made to recorded historical rights that existed before 1st January 1949 may be added to the Definitive Map.

The practical effect of this is to give some urgency to dealing with claims based on historical documentary evidence, since after this date all rights existing over such ways are extinguished unless they are added to the Definitive Map. The provisions will also prevent the addition of higher or lower rights from being recorded upon the Definitive Map which may have existed before 1949.

Whereas the CROW Act 2000 provided for the automatic re-designation of 'Roads Used as Public Paths' as Restricted Byways, there is a legacy that still requires resolution. Because reclassification orders were made by Dyfed County Council, the Council is still required to conclude the process of reclassification. Should objections remain unresolved the process must be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for determination.

The former Dyfed County Council commenced the reclassification process in the early 1990s - orders were made for the reclassification of some 697 RUPPs and unopposed orders were duly confirmed. However, where objections were made the remaining reclassification orders could not be confirmed and the County Council inherited an outstanding 349 RUPPs. Progress has been made in resolving objections but a large number of reclassification orders remain to be concluded (comprising a total of 284 paths as at June 2007).

A list of the key rights of way processes undertaken by the County Council is given in Figure 5. Further details of the legal processes are contained within the Assessment.

Figure 5 – Legal processes

Legislation	Category	Description
W&C Act 1981	S. 53, Schedule 14	Modification of Definitive Map
W&C Act 1981	S. 54, Schedule 14	Reclassification of status of RUPPs
Highways Act 1980 & T&C P Act 1990	S. 116 & 119 S. 257	Public Path Diversion Orders
Highways Act 1980	S. 118	Public Path Extinguish Orders
Highways Act 1980	S. 25 & 26	Creation Agreements and Orders
T&C P Act 1990	S. 258	Extinguishment Orders

Figure 6 provides information for Ceredigion about path orders in respect of the continuous review of the Definitive Map and other legal changes.

Figure 6 – Public Path Orders

Legislation	Category	Description	Orders processed 1996-2006	Outstanding Orders (Feb 2006)
W&C Act 1981	S. 53, Schedule 14	Modification of Definitive Map	13	22
W&C Act 1981	S. 54, Schedule 14	Reclassification of status of RUPPs	65	284
Highways Act 1980 & T&C P Act 1990	S. 116 & 119 S. 257	Public Path Diversion Orders	90	82
Highways Act 1980	S. 118	Public Path Extinguish Orders	2	2
Highways Act 1980	S. 25 & 26	Creation Agreements and Orders	1	25
T&C P Act 1990	S. 258	Extinguishment Orders	0	0
		TOTAL	171	415

Key elements concerning the Definitive Map that are addressed by the ROWIP are:

- a) The review of the Definitive Map to ensure that existing public rights of way in each community are correctly recorded in terms of status and location.
- b) Review of Definitive Map anomalies in each community (such as routes that finish on a community or county boundaries, the status of the route varies between community or county boundaries)
- c) Research into amendments proposed under the 1970 review of the Definitive Map, having regard to Section 56 of CROW Act 2000 (which will bring about the closure of the Definitive Map to new applications based upon historical evidence from the 1st January 2026).
- d) The determination of Section 53 Schedule 14 applications within 12 months from receipt of a correct application. Orders will normally be made within 6 months of the relevant Committee decision.
- e) To seek the removal of objections from Section 54 applications (reclassification of RUPPs) and confirm Orders, or refer objections to the Planning Inspectorate under Schedule 15.
- f) Affording priority to Public Path Orders for creation and diversion in specific circumstances:

- fee paying applications
- contentious or urgent claims, for example, for routes which are likely to be lost through development,
- well-used / priority routes where access has been denied and where no nearby alternative is available, or
- routes where there are significant road safety implications.

2.4 ASSESSMENT NO. 3: THE CONDITION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

The condition of public paths in Ceredigion, and indeed in Wales as a whole, is generally considered to be poor⁸. National targets for making available public paths (known as the '2000 Target') have not been met and a survey of paths in Wales carried out in 2002 (see below) concluded that the poor condition of the path network is preventing its potential being realised in terms of providing access to the countryside, sustainable tourism, amenity use by local people and the generation of potential health benefits to users.

A comprehensive assessment was carried out in 2002 when the CCW commissioned a rights of way survey of rights of way in Wales (undertaken by exeGesIS SDM Ltd.) that was designed to establish the condition of the path network in 2002 and of progress towards meeting the national target. It also provided estimates of resources required to properly maintain public rights of way in Wales. The survey provides valuable base-line information on the incidence of path furniture and path obstacles that can be classed as being either inconvenient or unusable.

The survey found that continued investment at recent levels will result in the condition of the network deteriorating from its present poor condition. Based on the survey findings, the study calculated the cost of bringing the whole network in Wales into a satisfactory condition was approximately £26 million. Thereafter, the total annual maintenance cost is estimated at approximately £8.37 million. If the upgrade costs were distributed over a 5 year period and added to the annual maintenance costs, the annual investment (for each of the next 5 years) is estimated as £13.6 million per year or approximately £390 per km per year.

These calculations applied to Ceredigion on a pro-rata basis (i.e. based on the County's share of rights of way) provide a measure of the investment required to improve the condition of rights of way:

- The total cost of upgrading the network is estimated to be some £1.91 million (£762 per km);
- The cost of maintaining an upgraded network is approximately £620,000 (£247 per km);
- The annual expenditure needed over each of the next five years to upgrade and maintain the network would be some £980,000 (£391 per km).

⁸ 'Wales Rights of Way Condition Survey 2002' CCW (2003).

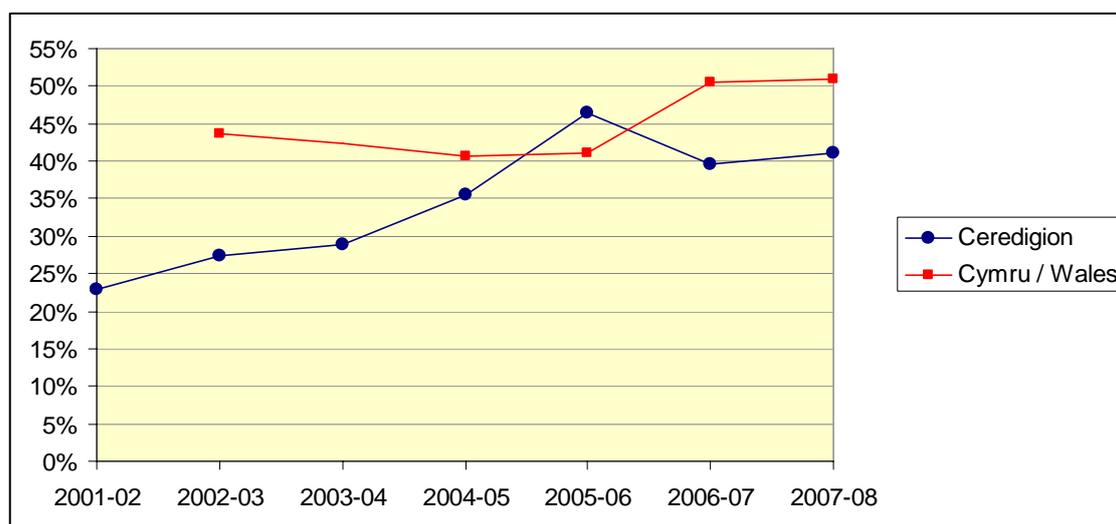
This annual budget for rights of way works (excluding expenditure on special projects such as the Coast Path) is approximately £130,000 per annum, which equates to £52 per km. On this basis, annual budgets for rights of way in Ceredigion represent just 13% of the expenditure estimated for undertaking a five year programme for upgrading and maintaining the network. It should also be noted that this comparison does not take account of inflationary effects since the CCW survey was carried out in 2002 nor does it take account of the staffing requirements for carrying out enhanced programmes of works.

Additional information about path condition is available through annual path surveys carried out to measure local authority performance (based on a 5% sample survey). The current Performance Indicator has been in place since 2001-02 and measures a sample of paths to estimate the percentage of footpaths and other rights of way which are 'easy to use' by members of the public and signposted. Easy to use means:

- signposted or waymarked where they leave the road in accordance with the authority's duty under the Countryside Act 1968;
- free from unlawful obstructions or other interference (including overhanging vegetation) to the public's right of passage;
- surface and lawful barriers (e.g. stiles, gates) in good repair and to a standard necessary to enable the public to use the way without undue inconvenience.

Results for Ceredigion for the period 2001-02 to 2007-08, and a comparison with the all-Wales position are set out in the table below.

Figure 7 - Performance Indicators: Ceredigion and Wales comparison



The percentage of total length of footpaths and other rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public.

- (a) *The Wales figure for 2001-02 is not available*
- (b) *The Wales figure for 2003-04 is considered to be unreliable (source: Wales Audit Office)*

Source: Local Government Data Unit Wales (NAWPI 6.10 & CMT/008)

Subject to a caveat about the 'confidence margin' on account of the sample size, the results have shown a general improvement in the condition of rights of way in Ceredigion. It nevertheless remains the case that over half of the public paths in the County are not considered as being 'easy to use' by members of the public. In addition, the Ceredigion PI for 2006-07 witnessed a reversal on the previous year's results: the PI figures for 2007-08 may assist in clarifying the trend.

There are a number of factors that are likely to have been responsible for the overall improvement in the condition of rights of way in Ceredigion in recent years:

- An increase in rights of way staff capacity in the County (arising from CROW Act 2000 funding).
- Major EU-funded rights of way improvement projects ('Green Tourism' scheme and the Coast Path project).
- Path improvements undertaken through a number of other programmes (notably the annual Community Paths Scheme, path projects funded through the Ceredigion TGA Plan and through volunteer works schemes)
- Annual programmes for the signposting of rights of way.
- Improvements arising from the Tir Gofal scheme.

2.5 ASSESSMENT NO. 4: MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

2.5.1 Rights of Way Responsibilities

The County Council as local highway authority has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of a right of way. Most public rights of way are maintainable at the public's expense and Councils have a responsibility to maintain the surface. The principal duties and responsibilities of the local authority for rights of way are set out in Appendix 3.

In addition, the Highways Act 1980 gives community councils the power to maintain and improve rights of way. A number of community council have, over many years, carried out works to rights of way. The County Council in 2004 introduced the Community Paths Scheme which provides grants (75%) for community councils for the maintenance and improvement of paths.

Landowners are in general responsible for maintaining gates and stiles on rights of way. They are eligible to recover 25% of costs for the repair and replacement of stiles and gates. Landowners also have responsibilities in respect of overhanging vegetation and the growing of crops on rights of way.

2.5.2 Rights of Way – Protection and Management

The various key activities carried out by the Council for the protection and management of rights of way are set out below:

a. Enforcement

Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980 requires the Council 'to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway'. The Council may serve notice on a landowner for the removal of an obstruction, carry out work and recharge the costs of such work or prosecute individuals for offences.

The ROWIP assessment into the condition of the rights of way network noted that the most commonly encountered obstruction that renders a path unusable is a hedge, fence or walls across path (35.2% of all obstacles). The landowner has responsibility in these cases.

The Council seeks to deal with enforcement issues in cooperation with landowners. It may be necessary to highlight the prospect of legal action in certain circumstance although this is a 'last resort', bearing in mind that legal action is a resource-intensive process.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 made provision for members of the public to serve notice on local authorities, and subsequently make an application to the Magistrates Court, for the removal of obstruction on rights of way within a specified period. A total of 36 notices have been served on the County Council since the commencement of this provision on 1st April 2004.

b. Path Complaints

There is currently a substantial backlog of complaints about rights of way (347 complaints as at January 2007). It is probable that a large number of these complaints are no longer valid or have been resolved by other means (e.g. resolved through path work programmes or by landowners arising from Tir Gofal agreements). There has been some initial consideration of this issue but further investigation would be required to give an accurate assessment of the backlog.

c. Path Management Programmes

The key path management programmes of work currently carried out by the Council are:

- **Brushcutting:** There are currently 134 km (84 miles) of rights of way covered by the programme, some 5.4% of the path network.
- **Signposting and waymarking:** Annual programmes of path signposting from the metalled highway. Waymarking is carried out mainly along recreational routes (in some instances with distinctive waymarks to denote specific routes). The Council follows guidance produced by CCW in the waymarking of rights of way.
- **Community Paths Scheme:** The County Council introduced the Community Paths Scheme in 2004 to provide support for community councils in the maintenance and improvement of paths. The scheme includes funding from community councils (25% of works costs) and grant support from CCW.

- Area Management and volunteer works: The schemes included in area budgets generally include small scale maintenance and improvement works. The path works may be pre-planned or reactive. The Ramblers Association Footpath Volunteers have made a major contribution to path improvements over a number of years.
- Path Improvement Programmes: Key projects (which have been supported through external grant funding) have included:
 - Objective 1 (ERDF) – Ceredigion Coast Path Project
 - Welsh Assembly Government – Coastal Access Improvement Programme
 - Ceredigion TGA – improvements to Lampeter to Aberaeron and Borth to Devil's Bridge promoted routes
 - Spirit of Miners Project – development of Devil's Bridge to Pontrhydfendigaid route and five circular routes in the project area.
 - Active Lifestyles Project – Llannon (steps to beach), waymarking of the Devils Bridge to Pontrhydfendigaid route and path improvements at Ynyslas.

d. Path links to Open Access Land

The CROW Act 2000 made provision for access on foot to 'open access' land (defined as mountain, moor, heath and down and common land). The Act also allowed for the dedication of land as access land. Since the introduction of these provisions, the Council has carried out limited programmes of improvements to rights of way leading into access land from key settlements and other locations ('gateways') around the fringes of the Cambrian Mountains.

e. 'Access for All'

Recent legislation requires provision for the disabled to be considered equally with that of other path users. The needs of blind and partially sighted people and others with mobility problems must be considered by the ROWIP (Section 60, CROW Act). The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to consider the needs of people with disabilities and to improve access to services.

There is no accurate information on the accessibility of the network for people with mobility problems, much of the public rights of way is likely to present difficulties to disabled users. The hilly topography of many areas of the county and the remoteness of some paths will be a barrier to some path users. Other factors that can impede use are general maintenance issues (surface problems and vegetation growth). People with mobility problems may also be restricted by structures on rights of way, notably stiles. Structures such as stiles and gates are the responsibility the landowner and as a consequence any improvement (such as changing a stile for a gap or a gate) can only be carried out with the consent of the landowner.

A high percentage of the County's residents are elderly (18.3 % of the resident population is over 65). An elderly person may be perfectly capable of walking but might, for example, have difficulty negotiating a stile. Similarly, a person

with a pushchair may also be constrained by stiles and other factors when out in the countryside.

Section 69 of the CROW Act 2000 places a duty on local authorities to have regard to the needs of people with mobility problems when authorising the erection of barriers on rights of way. Increased accessibility can also be achieved by improving information about accessible routes and sites. The production of appropriate information and publicity would allow the individual to make an informed judgement as to the suitability of a route or site for their own personal circumstances. The Council, through the ROWIP, can develop approaches for the provision of least restrictive access. Existing guidance⁹ offers a way forward for the Council in ensuring the countryside is accessible to as many users as possible. The least restrictive access principle is that all work, whether planned improvement or ad-hoc maintenance, must meet the highest possible standards for that work.

The Plan recognises that further investigation is required in order to ensure that access opportunities for people with mobility problems are adequately addressed.

f. Motorised Recreational Vehicles – Cambrian Mountains Pilot Project:

The Cambrian Mountains have been the focus of recreational vehicular use in mid Wales for a number of years. This appears to be an increasing activity but it is not managed in any systematic way by the three County Councils covering this area (Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire). Increased use has given rise to concern about the long term sustainability and use (sometimes illegal use) of unsealed surface Unclassified Roads, Byways and Restricted Byways, and the effect that usage has had on land management and community interests.

In addition there are concerns about the impact on protected wildlife sites, sites of archaeological and historic importance as well as other sensitive areas in the Cambrian Mountains. Accordingly, there is a need to reconcile the protection of statutory sites and sensitive areas with legitimate recreational vehicle use, also having regard to the valuable contribution that this can bring to local economies.

Because of the location and geography of the Cambrian Mountains, effective action is best achieved through a partnership approach to management. The County Councils (Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire) and the Countryside Council for Wales have been working together with other partners and stakeholders to devise management measures for recreational motorised vehicles.

The pilot project has grown out the work of the Wales Off-road Motorcycling Steering Group which identified the need to provide framework guidance for

⁹ 'BT Countryside for All: good practice guide to disabled peoples access in the countryside', BT/Fieldfare Trust (2005)
'By all Reasonable Means: inclusive access to the outdoors', CCW (2006)

the various agencies. CCW was asked by the Welsh Assembly Government to initiate a number of pilot projects across Wales and is providing grant funding for the project.

Consultants were appointed in 2008 (Exegesis SDM Ltd), their brief being to:

- Identify routes that could be considered as sustainable for motorised use
- Assess the levels of investment needed to manage routes
- Set out possible management options
- Produce a strategy and action plan for the management of motorised recreational vehicles

In August the consultants produced a draft strategy and action plan for the management of recreational motorised vehicles in the Cambrian Mountains (which at the time of writing is subject to public consultation). The final strategy will provide a framework for future management and will guide resource decisions.

2.5.3 Resources - Funding

The resources for managing rights of way are a critical factor in measures to improve the condition of rights of way not just in Ceredigion, but in Wales as a whole. A study carried out on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales in 2002 highlighted the scale of investment required to bring the path network in Wales into a satisfactory condition.

The annual County Council budget for rights of way works has been approximately £130,000 per annum in recent years: this sum excludes path projects and works on Byways¹⁰. It also excludes staff and support costs. Within this budget there is an element of CCW grant aid for path and access improvements (in 2007-08 the figure being some £15,000).

Figure 7 – Ceredigion Rights of Way budget 2007-08

Budget categories	Sum
Brushcutting	£23,000
Signposting	£8,000
Area management work (including Volunteer works)	£66,000
Community Path Scheme (75% input)	£18,550
Path projects (including 'Open Access' path improvements)	£17,205
Contributions to landowners	£50
Total:	£132,805

¹⁰ Byways are the responsibility of the Department of Highways, Property and Works.

This sum is being supplemented by WAG through a three year funding programme for ROWIP implementation. The sum made available in 2008-09 (the first year of the programme is £94,000).

The Council has sought to supplement investment on rights of way and access projects through grant funding for strategic route development and other projects (e.g. Ceredigion Coast Path Project). The development and improvement of strategic routes has of course major benefits for recreation, tourism and health.

The extension of the network of strategic and other routes nevertheless has budgetary consequences. Whilst grant aid may be secured for improvement works, the ongoing revenue consequences of access improvements must be accommodated within the resources available to the Council. There is a limit in the capacity to sustain a network of routes within the level of resources currently available.

2.5.4 Resources - Staff

Staff currently engaged in Definitive Map, rights of way and access functions within the Coast and Countryside Section are as follows:

Definitive Map and access:

- Rights of Way (Definitive Map) and Common Land Officer
- Definitive Map Assistant
- Coastal Access Project Officer
- Common Land / Access Assistant

Public Rights of Way management:

- Rights of Way and Access Officer
- Rights of Way and Countryside Rangers (4 posts)

A system of area management has been devised with each Ranger attached to a geographical area of the County: the rights of way management areas are shown in Appendix 5. From time to time staff resources are augmented by temporary project officer support for path and access initiatives subject to grant support (e.g. Ceredigion Coast Path Project, Coastal Access Programme).

A CCW report, 'PROW Staff Resources in Wales: An Assessment of Needs 2005' found that limited staff time was reported as the most common reason for authorities' performance difficulties. Key areas of work requiring additional staff were 'definitive map work' and 'PROW maintenance and improvement. This situation is echoed in Ceredigion.

2.6 ASSESSMENT NO. 5: USER NEEDS

This User Needs assessment explored people's views on rights of way and access to the countryside. It looked at the way in which the rights of way network is used, the views and aspirations of the local community and visitors, and the factors that currently discourage or prevent use of public paths and the

countryside in general. It drew on a number of studies into rights of way and access, visitor satisfaction surveys and coast path user surveys:

- Ceredigion Rights of Way Improvement Plan Questionnaire 2006
- Survey of visitor opinions concerning access to the countryside of Ceredigion 2005 (Aberystwyth University)
- Ceredigion Coast Path Users Survey 2004

The studies followed different methodologies and their results are not directly comparable. Nevertheless, they provided useful insights into the way in which rights of way (and access sites) meet present and likely future needs of the public. Some of the key findings of these studies are highlighted below.

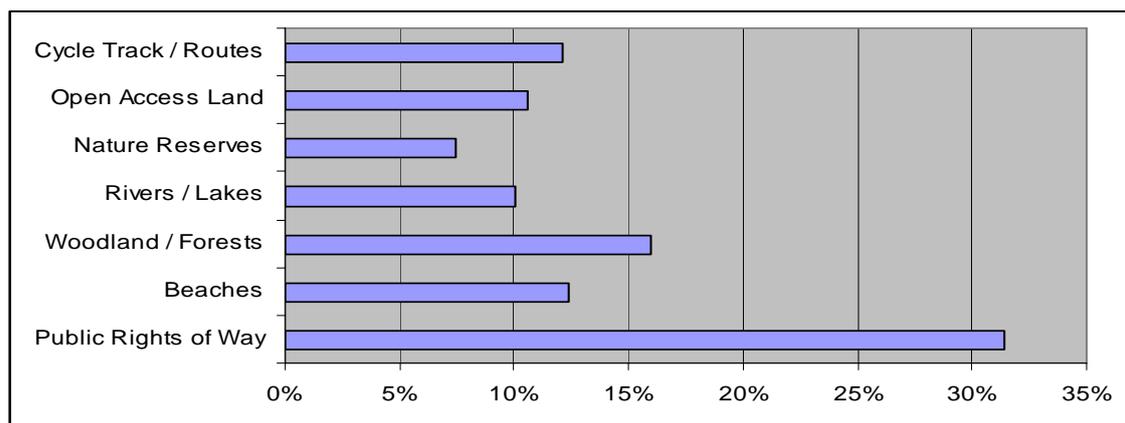
2.6.1 Ceredigion ROWIP Survey - 2006

Local resident's views were sought at a series of seven 'Community Engagement' meetings held in the County in October and November 2006. In addition, the questionnaire used at these meetings was available on the Ceredigion web site and the Council intranet site ('Cardinet'). In total 176 questionnaires were returned (174 of which were from people residing in Ceredigion). Views were sought on the nature of visits to the countryside, the use of rights of way, physical ability of path users, the importance of different route types and how information is obtained on access opportunities.

Countryside Access

The results showed that when more regular visits are assessed (i.e. daily to weekly), rights of way are the most frequently used form of countryside access, accounting for 31% of responses.

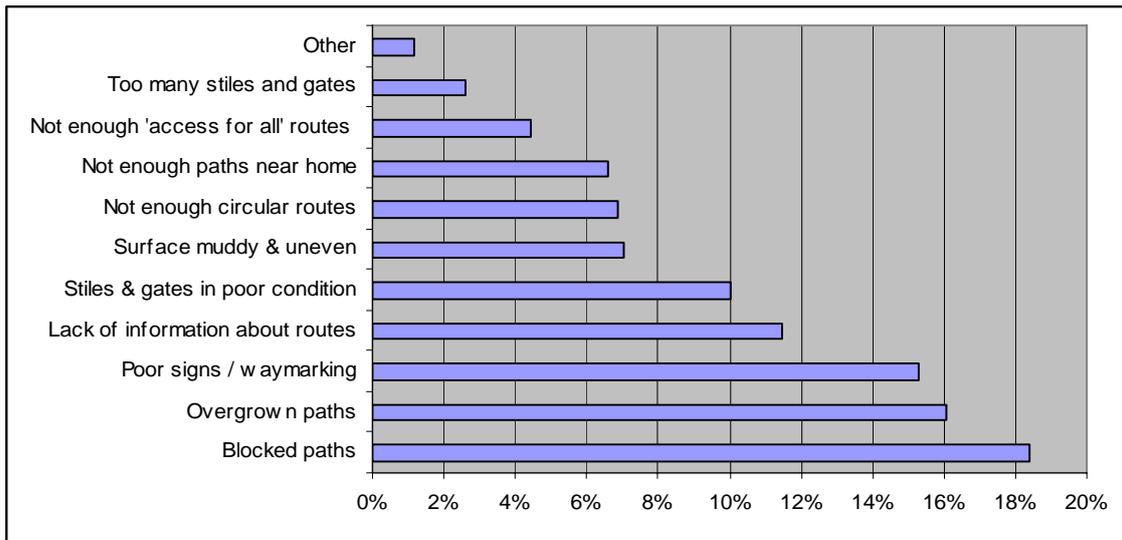
Figure 9 – Countryside access: frequent visits



Reasons for not using rights of way

The most common reason given for not using rights of way was blocked paths (18%). The three most important concerns (blocked paths, overgrown paths and poor signs / waymarking) combine to give 50% of the total response.

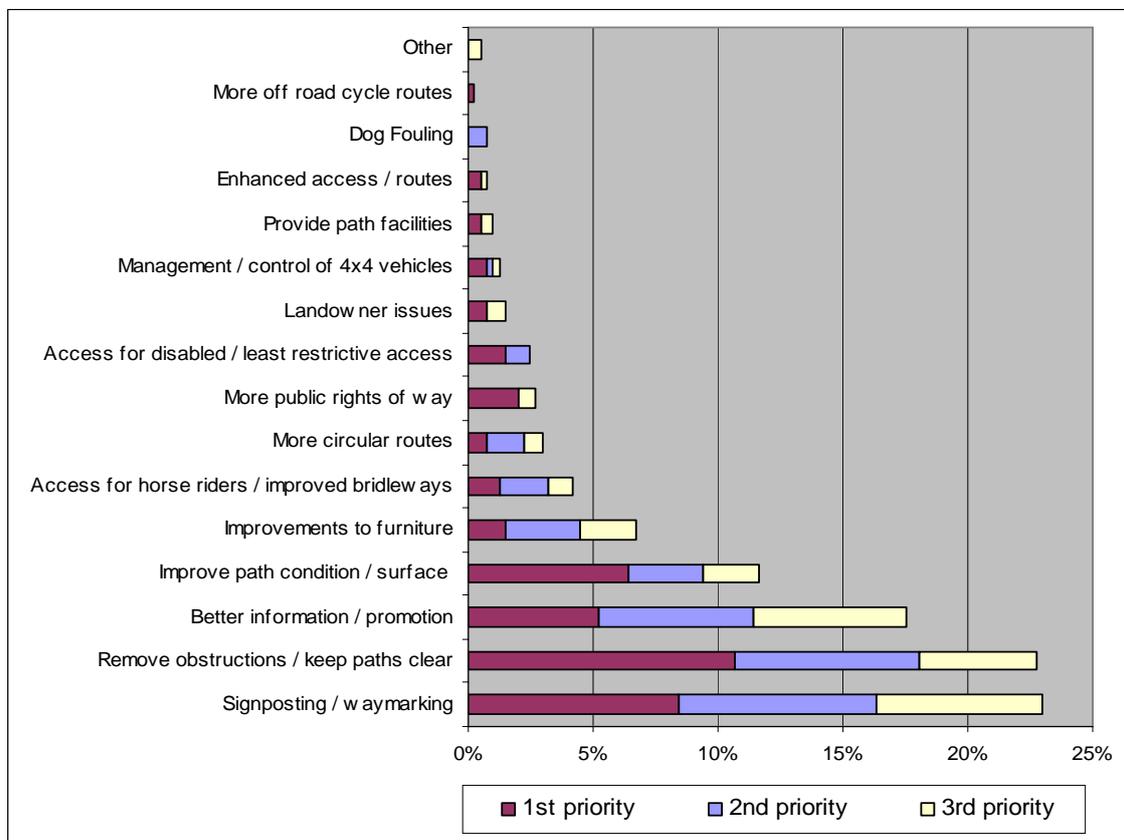
Figure 10 – Reasons for not using rights of way



Improving rights of way and their use

The most important improvements required for rights of way and their use were considered to be improved signposting and waymarking (23%) and the removal of obstructions / keeping paths clear (22.8%), followed by better countryside access information and promotion (17.6%).

Figure 11 – Priorities for improving rights of way



2.6.2 Survey of visitor opinions concerning access to the countryside of Ceredigion 2005 (Aberystwyth University)

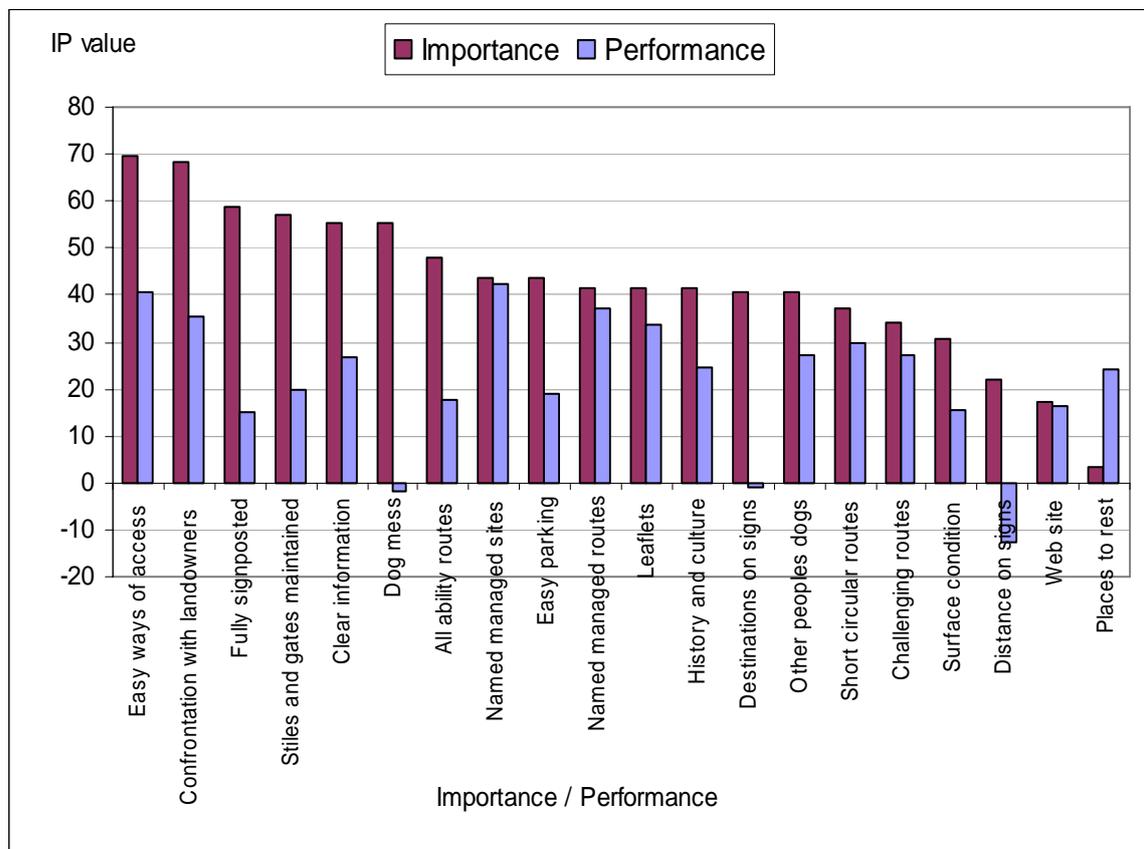
The survey was carried out as part of the Ceredigion Tourism Quality Initiative. The aims of the study were to find out who visits the Ceredigion countryside; what influences them in choosing to visit Ceredigion; what aspects of countryside access management people found important; and how well the countryside was managed. Survey locations included coastal path sites, managed sites (such as Nant yr Arian and Ynyslas), managed routes (including the trail at Tregaron Nature Reserve) and in the wider countryside. A total of 211 people took part in the survey.

The results were similar to other tourism studies, showing 22.7% visitors coming from the Midlands and 17% of visitors from within Wales (from locations outside Ceredigion). The survey found that the main purpose of visits was for holidays (39.8%) and short breaks (13.2%).

Walking was by far the most important activity carried out when visiting the Ceredigion countryside (62.7% of respondents). Other activities including sightseeing (20.6%) and birdwatching / wildlife (9.6%)

Countryside Access and Performance

Figure 12 – Countryside Access: Importance Performance Analysis



Respondents were requested to rate the importance (when choosing to walk and / or access the countryside) of certain aspects of access and walking in Ceredigion and then rate their satisfaction with their experience of those elements. The closer ranked both the importance and performance indicators are, the better the area is in satisfying visitor expectation with regard to that particular element. The larger the gap between importance and performance, the more dissatisfied visitors are with that aspect of the experience.

The table shows that certain aspects of countryside access to the countryside such as managed sites and routes are fairly stable. However, others such as dog mess, maintenance of stile and gates, all-ability routes, destination / distance on signposts rate less favourably.

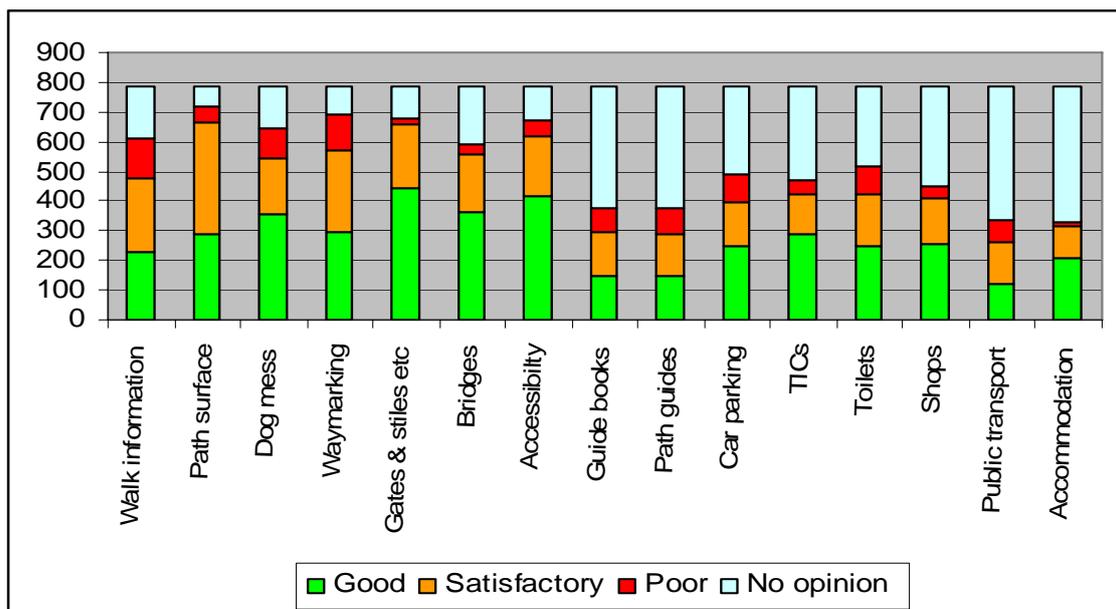
2.6.3 Ceredigion Coast Path Users Survey - 2004

Questionnaires were available at five control points situated on public footpaths along the coast (at Borth, Llanrhystud, Aberaeron, New Quay and Penbryn). A total of 776 questionnaires were returned. The survey included questions about the attractions of walking, and distance walked and home location. 15% of coastal path walkers lived in Ceredigion whilst the highest proportion were from the Midlands (25%). 76% of respondents indicated that they were on holiday.

The experience of walking the coast

The survey included questions on the path conditions, path information and other services. It should be noted that since the survey was carried out a range of path works and path creations have been undertaken as part of the Ceredigion Coast Path project.

Figure 13 – Walkers opinions



2.7 ASSESSMENT NO. 6: PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION OF RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS

Promotion of the path network and other forms of countryside access is a continuous process. Promotional activity is diverse: it is carried out by both public and private sectors, it serves different purposes (e.g. for recreation, tourism development, health and to foster a greater appreciation of the countryside) and it caters for different users and market segments. Although plans and strategies have helped to guide the actions of a number of organisations that undertake promotional activity, there is greater scope for the integration of activity across sectors and organisations involved in access promotion.

The effective promotion of access opportunities must be underpinned by well-maintained network of routes. The effective funding and management of rights of way is a fundamental requirement for promotional activity: it is only by ensuring that public paths are in good condition and signposted can the benefits of access be maximised and a pleasurable and safe experience offered to users.

Some access publicity has a regional context (e.g. cycle routes promoted by Sustrans, the Cambrian Way, etc) while other publicity is primarily geared to marketing activity (e.g. walking and cycling promotions by the former Wales Tourist Board; now 'Visit Wales'), rather than providing specific route information. There are also numerous publications which provide information about countryside access and wildlife sites managed by national and local organisations (e.g. Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission, etc). Publicity material recently produced by the Forestry Commission for its woodland sites has also focussed on the health benefits of access.

Additional measures are required to broaden the availability of access and the attendant publicity in the areas of integrating access and public transport and in access for the less able. Whilst schemes have been developed in Ceredigion (e.g. the 'Cardi Bach' bus service and all-ability routes at various sites), this is an area that requires further consideration. Similarly, urban and village routes (for example town trails and 'utility' routes) are not well represented.

The County Council has to date focussed on highlighting countryside access opportunities principally through the production of walks and rides leaflets and through the Council web sites. These publications produced by the County Council have focussed principally on what might be described as 'recreational paths' – generally circular routes of modest distance and catering for a range of users (listed in Appendix 6).

More recently a guide book and web site have been produced for the recently completed Ceredigion Coast Path whilst further information on the Ceredigion coast will be made available through the Coastal Access Improvement Programme.

In addition there is an extensive network of routes covered by independent publications. A range of books and guides have been produced by companies and individuals that cover a large number of routes (principally walking routes), from short circular paths to the Cambrian Way. These publications supplement the network of routes promoted by the Council and need to be taken account of in managing networks of rights of way.

The management of such routes has significant implications for rights of way budgets, both in terms of staff inputs in ensuring that paths are open and available and in ongoing maintenance costs. The limitations of the rights of way budget currently precludes a more comprehensive approach in the general management of the path network, including those paths included in publications. It follows that proposals to extend the network of promoted routes requires to be considered very carefully arising from the ongoing financial consequences of path management.

2.8 WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

The Assessments described in the previous section underpin the production of the ROWIP. The Statement of Action needs to reflect the principles and themes that have been identified as part of this process. The main findings that have emerged are set out in Figure 14 below.

Figure 14 – The ROWIP Assessments: key findings

1.	Strategic context for the management of rights of way
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is essential that the ROWIP is effectively integrated with national and local plans and strategies. ▪ The importance of rights of way and access for recreation, tourism development, sustainable transport and health must be recognised and exploited. ▪ Opportunities for securing additional funding for access initiatives should be maximised.
2.	The Definitive Map: legal definition of rights of way
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Definitive Map should be reviewed to ensure that existing public rights of way in each community are correctly recorded in terms of status and location. ▪ To research amendments to the Definitive Map bearing in mind that Section 56 of CROW Act 2000 will bring about the closure of the Definitive Map to new applications based upon historical evidence from the 1st January 2026. ▪ To seek removal of objections from Section 54 applications (the reclassification of RUPPs) and confirm Orders, or refer objections to the Planning Inspectorate. ▪ To develop web site information on Public Rights of Way.

3.	The condition of the public rights of way network
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Path conditions in Ceredigion have improved in recent years. Nevertheless, despite this encouraging trend, over half of the paths in the County are not 'easy to use' (Performance Indicator NAWPI 6.10 & CMT/008). Because of the level of resources available for path management, there must inevitably be a question mark over the ability to sustain continuing improvements in condition. ▪ A sustained improvement is required in the condition of rights of way in Ceredigion if the network is to realise its potential in terms of providing access to the countryside, sustainable tourism, amenity use by local people and health benefits. ▪ The rights of way network in Ceredigion is under-resourced and is not fulfilling its potential. There is a major shortfall in the level of funding required to bring the network to a satisfactory standard (as identified and the level of funding available through annual budgets. ▪ External funding for path improvement projects (such as EU and WAG funded schemes) can have a significant short / medium term impact on path conditions and also help in making available or enhancing key path networks. However, such schemes cannot address on-going maintenance requirements.
4.	Management and protection of public rights of way
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council should develop its approaches to path management to help deliver an improvement in the condition of rights of way. ▪ To ensure that resources are targeted to achieve the most effective outcomes for rights of way and access, a 'priority path network' needs to be devised through the ROWIP. This network should take account of the different path types and range of user needs. ▪ The ROWIP will need to give further consideration to the development of opportunities for the less-able and 'least restrictive access' on rights of way in Ceredigion. ▪ Further opportunities for encouraging and engaging local communities in path management should be considered. ▪ CAMS software (Countryside Access and Management System) offers a means of assisting in the management of the path network. However, realising the full potential of this system has resource implications.
5.	User needs assessment
	<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main reason for local residents using rights of way is for pleasure and relaxation. Coast Path users cited scenery as the single most important reason for walking, with exercise as the second most important factor. ▪ Ordnance survey maps and local knowledge are the most important source of information about access opportunities. ▪ The availability of local routes close to home was the priority for local

	<p>residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main reasons highlighted by local residents for not using rights of way are blocked paths, overgrown paths and poor signs / waymarking. ▪ Priorities cited by local residents for improving rights of way were improved signposting / waymarking, removing obstructions / keeping paths clear and better information / path promotion. <p>Walkers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most people walk between 1 and 3 miles, although coastal path users walk longer distances. ▪ Walkers would prefer to have some access information when accessing the countryside. ▪ That priorities should include 2-3 mile walks centred on villages, the Teifi Trail and a 'Round Ceredigion Walk'. <p>Horse riders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are issues regarding the availability of circular routes and the connectivity of the bridleway network. ▪ Obstructions and padlocked gates were highlighted as an issue in preventing use of the bridleway network. ▪ Rider's priorities included improved path surfacing, improved connectivity of the network, removal of obstructions and more information about horse riding opportunities in Ceredigion. <p>Less able users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The surveys did not provide a great deal of information about access for the less able. However, limited provision of 'access for all' routes was highlighted by over 6% of Ceredigion residents as a reason for not using rights of way. ▪ The public consider that the provision of all-ability routes is of importance, but that the area does not perform well in meeting such requirements. ▪ Further work is required in the development of all-ability access, especially near settlements.
6.	<p>Publicity and promotion of rights of way and access</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a need to identify a network of promoted routes that meet the needs of users. ▪ The network of promoted routes requires resources for maintenance to ensure that routes meet user expectations. ▪ Opportunities for joint / coordinated promotion of countryside access should be explored ▪ Further consideration needs to be given to publicity of 'access for all' routes ▪ There are opportunities to publicise countryside access linked to public transport use.

PART 3



3.1 PRODUCING THE STATEMENT OF ACTION

A key component of the ROWIP is the 'Statement of Action' which sets out the actions that the Council proposes to realise its vision for rights of way and access in Ceredigion. It sets the direction for the management of rights of way and for securing an improved access network over the next 10 years. The Statement of Action addresses the issues raised during public consultation and from the assessments undertaken as part of the ROWIP process.

The Statement of Action includes five inter-related themes for the management and improvement of rights of way and access in Ceredigion. It is further developed into aims and actions, each including an indication of the resources that would be required to deliver the proposals, the key partners involved and timescales for the actions.

The themes contained within the Statement of Action (Section 3.3) are:

- A. Maintaining the Definitive Map.**
- B. Managing the Rights of Way network**
- C. Meeting the needs of users, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems.**
- D. Working in partnership**
- E. Raising awareness about rights of way and access**

The ROWIP actions are strategic in nature although in some instances are path or site specific. In many instances actions will be developed through the production of annual business plans and programmes, funding bids and in detailed action plans covering particular topic areas.

Resource availability and funding will inevitably dictate the extent to which ROWIP priorities can be met. Rights of Way and access initiatives will also be influenced by external funding programmes which will have a bearing on the implementation of the ROWIP.

To assist in path management, the ROWIP provides a starting point for identifying a 'priority path network'. The identification of a priority network is central to the delivery of improvements to Rights of Way in Ceredigion. Resources need to be used to best effect and the categorisation of the various types of route can help ensure that staff inputs and funding are directed to best effect (for example, in devising path maintenance and improvement programmes and in responding to path complaints).

Existing routes such as the Ceredigion Coast Path and other strategic recreational routes (listed in Appendix 6) provide a basis from which the priority network can be developed. The identification of other routes, for example important community routes, will require further investigation. Public consultation on the ROWIP and ongoing communication with organisations such as the Local Access Forum, community councils and user groups have all assisted in a process of identifying a priority path network. The development of the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) can help in the recording and management of a priority path network.

The path categories that should make up the priority path network in Ceredigion are indicated in Figure 15. Route types are rated 1 to 4 to signify priority.

Figure 15 – Priority Path Network (public rights of way)

Priority	Recreational routes	
1	Strategic linear routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ceredigion Coast Path ▪ Wales Coast Path ▪ Aberaeron - Lampeter ▪ Borth - Pontrydfendigaid 	The Coast Path was developed through Objective 1 programme. The Wales Coast Path incorporates the Ceredigion Coast Path plus proposals for new paths along the Dyfi and Teifi estuaries (under the Coastal Access Programme).
2	County Council promoted routes	Other County Council promoted routes as listed in Appendix 6.
2	Coastal Zone routes	Circular coastal routes and links to the Coast Path – network to be developed through Coastal Access Programme.
3	Recreational routes – guided walks publications	Key routes to be identified (to comprise selected Ceredigion routes from walks guides).
3	Rights of Way that provide a link to (or within) countryside sites	For example, paths to Forestry Commission land, National Trust sites, etc. Network to be identified.
3	Rights of Way serving 'Access Land'	Paths from 'gateway' locations (see Figure 4). Network to be identified
4	Other recreational routes	Paths open and available and which provide a recreation resource. Network to be identified.
	Community routes	
2	Community routes (a) – circular routes around settlements	Local networks of rights of way near selected towns and villages. To be identified.
2	Community routes (b) – rights of way serving local facilities (e.g. schools and shops) and other focal	To be identified.

	points / features	
3	Community routes (c) – rights of way improved through rights of way improvement programmes	Path networks identified through the ‘Community Path Scheme’ and other local programmes
	Other routes	
2	‘Access for all routes’	Public rights of way that provide access opportunities for the less able – these may also be included in the above. Network to be identified.

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The production of the ROWIP is a statutory duty and although its implementation is not, there is an expectation that the Council will seek to deliver the plan. The Statement of action is ambitious and challenging and will require the continued backing of national and local government and other organisations. In many instances additional capital and revenue funding will be required to put the improvements into practice and to ensure long term maintenance. In other cases progress will be achieved through improved efficiency, adopting best practice, partnership working and through the support and engagement of the local community.

Resources are nevertheless the key to the delivery of the ROWIP and there can of course be no guarantee that funding will be available in full. However it is essential that the ROWIP sets out the aspirations for the County and strives to bring about a sustained improvement to its rights of way network.

As has been noted elsewhere, it is of particular importance that the ROWIP ‘dovetails’ with related plans and strategies. There are also specific processes and mechanisms that provide a basis for highlighting the key aims of the ROWIP and provide a means to take forward actions. These include:

- The Community Strategy (Ceredigion 2020)
- The Corporate Plan
- Annual Business Plans (Planning Services)
- Funding programmes and bids
- Integration of the ROWIP with other plans and strategies.

The Council will need to develop monitoring processes to assess and measure the performance in the delivery of the ROWIP. These mechanisms should include:

- Performance Indicators for rights of way
- Producing annual reports on ROWIP delivery
- County Council Scrutiny Committee (Environmental Services and Housing)
- Ceredigion Local Access Forum
- Liaison with user groups and farming unions

3.4 STATEMENT OF ACTION

The **Statement of Action** is built around the following themes and supporting aims:

A. Maintaining the Definitive Map.

- To provide an up-to date Definitive Map
- To provide a path network that is responsive to public requirements

B. Managing and protecting the Rights of Way network

- To improve the condition of rights of way
- To ensure the effective management of the path network

C. Meeting the needs of users, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems.

- To improve access to the network for all, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems
- To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community
- To ensure that the public path network provides good quality recreational opportunities
- To provide opportunities for horse riders and carriage drivers
- To provide opportunities for cyclists
- To provide opportunities for the use of off-road motorised vehicles
- To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites
- To support the use of 'green transport' for countryside access

D. Working in partnership

- To facilitate partnership working and to contribute to the effective delivery of related plans and strategies
- To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network

E. Raising awareness about rights of way and access

- To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion

The Statement of Action is set out in tabular form and contains the:

- Action reference number
- Supporting aim
- ROWIP action
- Priority – four levels of priority are identified: A* / A / B / C

(A* being the highest priority; C the lowest)

- Comments
- Resource implications for years 1 to 5 of the plan period
(Note: N/A - not applicable)
- Staff resources: the following symbols indicate the estimated staff resources needed to deliver the action –

Existing staff resources	⋈
Extra staff resources required	⋈ ⋈
Staffing requirements not assessed	?
- Funding: the estimated investment required to achieve each action, excluding staff costs. In most instances costs have been given with the following ranges (more precise costs will be identified in the production of rights of way and access programmes):

Met within existing budgets	£
Less than £10,000 required per year	< £10K
£10,000 to £50,000 required per year	£10-50 K
£50,000 to £100,000 required per year	£50-100K
Over £100,000 per year	>£100
Costs of action to be assessed	£?
- Delivery partners
The Local Access Forum is not specifically highlighted but their remit extends to providing guidance to all matters contained within the plan.
(Note: N/A – not applicable)

Many actions are interrelated and in many cases implementation of actions will need to be linked (for example the improvement of paths and their signposting). Similarly, the implementation of one action may assist in achieving the completion of another.

At the present time, cost and staff inputs are broadly based only and will be refined over the period of the plan. As actions are in certain instances interrelated, the financial or staff resources required for the achievement of one action may also contribute to the achievement of another. The review of the ROWIP will also enable actions and their resource requirements to be 'rolled forward' over the plan period to 2018.

Theme A - Maintaining the Definitive Map

Action ref: A.01	Aim: To provide an up-to date Definitive Map				
Action	Determine Modification Orders within set timescales				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Target of 80% of applications to determined within 12 months from receipt of valid application. Applications currently at approximately 6 per year.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: A.02	Aim: To provide an up-to date Definitive Map				
Action	Review the Definitive Map to ensure that public rights of way are correctly recorded in terms of status and location				
Priority	B				
Comments	Requires a 20 year programme of action and associated funding				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	WAG				

Action ref: A.03	Aim: To provide an up-to date Definitive Map				
Action	Prioritise and resolve outstanding Orders for the reclassification of RUPPs				
Priority	B				
Comments	Reclassification resolved either through the confirmation of Orders or their referral to the Planning Inspectorate. Requires a 10 year programme of action and associated funding				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	WAG, Planning Inspectorate				

Action ref: A.04	Aim: To provide an up-to date Definitive Map				
Action	Identify 'Lost Ways' through research into amendments proposed under the 1970 review of the Definitive Map				
Priority	C				
Comments	The CROW Act 2000 provides for the closure of the Definitive Map to new applications based upon historical evidence from the 1 st January 2026. This matter is under review at a national level.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	WAG				

Action ref: A.05	Aim: To provide a path network that is responsive to public requirements				
Action	Support applications for the diversion of rights of way where the line of the amended route would be in the public interest				
Priority	B				
Comments	<p>Applications currently at approximately 10 per year. Target of 75% of applications to be determined within 6 months from receipt of valid application. Provided that the legal tests are met, appropriate circumstance could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ routes that offer a direct improvement for path users; ▪ an improvement in provision of a circular route, or provision of access that was not previously available ▪ an improvement to a national route, strategic route, or a route to an attraction or viewpoint; ▪ the diversion of paths away from residential buildings to improve privacy; ▪ working farmyards and farm buildings for safety reasons; ▪ improvements to public safety (e.g. schools, road safety) 				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈
Delivery partners	Landowners				

Action ref: A.06	Aim: To provide a path network that is responsive to public requirements				
Action	Create new rights of way where a new path would be in the public interest				
Priority	B				
Comments	<p>Applications currently at approximately 5 per year. Appropriate circumstance justifying path creations could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to replace a route through natural erosion; ▪ in the interests of road safety; ▪ providing an improvement in access to a national route, strategic route, attraction or viewpoint; ▪ development of the strategic recreational route network; ▪ providing links or improved access to Access Land; or ▪ increasing the range of users on a route. 				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈
Delivery partners	Landowners				

Action ref: A.07	Aim: To provide a path network that is responsive to public requirements				
Action	Prioritise the determination of Orders for the creation and diversion of rights of way to reflect public benefits				
Priority	B				

Comments	<p>Priority to be given to applications in cases where one or more of the following circumstances are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ contentious or urgent claims, for example, for routes which are likely to be lost through development ▪ on well-used paths / priority path networks where access has been denied and where no nearby alternative is available ▪ routes where there are significant road safety implications. 				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	Landowners				

Theme B – Managing and protecting the Rights of Way network

Action ref: B.01	Aim: To improve the condition of rights of way				
Action	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are easy to use and signed to 50% by 2010				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Measured by annual sample survey of public paths. Performance Indicator for 2006 for path condition was 40%.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	-	-
Staff	⦿ ⦿	⦿ ⦿	⦿ ⦿	-	-
Delivery partners	CCW, Community Councils, RA volunteers, landowners				

Action ref: B.02	Aim: To improve the condition of rights of way				
Action	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are easy to use and signed to 80% by 2018				
Priority	A				
Comments	Measured by annual sample survey of public paths. Performance Indicator for 2006 for path condition was 40%.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	>£50K	>£50K
Staff	-	-	-	⦿ ⦿	⦿ ⦿
Delivery partners	CCW, Community Councils, RA volunteers, landowners				

Action ref: B.03	Aim: To improve the condition of rights of way				
Action	Increase the number of rights of way that are signed from the metalled highway				
Priority	A*				
Comments	To install or replace 80 signposts each year. Installation of signs needs to be linked to path improvement / maintenance programmes (see B.01, B0.2 and B0.4).				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⦿	⦿	⦿	⦿	⦿
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: B.04	Aim: To improve the condition of rights of way				
Action	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are included in annual brushcutting programmes to 7.5% by 2010				
Priority	A*				
Comments	In 2007-08, 5.4% (134 km) of the path network was included in brushcutting programmes. Linkage to actions B.01, B0.2 and B0.3.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	⦿	⦿	⦿	⦿	⦿
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: B.05	Aim: To improve the condition of rights of way				
Action	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are included in annual brushcutting programmes to 15% by 2018				
Priority	A				
Comments	In 2007-08, 5.4% (134 km) of the path network was included in brushcutting programmes. Linkage to actions B.01, B0.2 and B0.3.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: B.06	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Devise a path priority network to guide the allocation of resources (a framework for identifying the Priority Path Network is shown in Figure 15).				
Priority	A*				
Comments	The identification of a priority network will help guide the allocation of resources for path management.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	User groups, community councils				

Action ref: B.07	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Devise a system of path monitoring for ensuring that paths meet user expectations and health and safety standards				
Priority	A				
Comments	Path monitoring to focus on the Priority Path Network (see Figure 14). IT systems can be used to assist monitoring (CAMs), subject to resources for the development of this system.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	-	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: B.08	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	To introduce and maintain annual path monitoring on the Priority Path Network				
Priority	A				
Comments	The Priority Path Network is indicated in Figure 15. IT systems can be used to assist monitoring.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	-	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: B.09	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Support the maintenance and improvement of rights of way through the Community Path Scheme				
Priority	B				
Comments	<p>Annual County Council funding programme introduced in 2003 to support community and town councils. Schemes should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benefit the local community and/or visitors to Ceredigion; ▪ Provide opportunities for gaining access to the countryside; ▪ Provide links between community facilities and features of interest; ▪ Make available local networks of community paths (that might also offer opportunities for promotion and interpretation); ▪ Contribute to the development of a strategic network of recreational paths; ▪ Open paths that are not currently available (eg. through the removal of obstructions); ▪ Offer opportunities for access by the less able. <p>Approaches to community path programmes can be reviewed as part of the ROWIP (see Action B.10)</p>				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, community and town councils, landowners				

Action ref: B.10	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Introduce a programme for the systematic improvement of community rights of way				
Priority	A*				
Comments	‘Rolling programme’ of works carried out in conjunction with community and town councils, community and user groups. Consultation required over the approach and investigation of funding opportunities.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	WAG, CCW, community and town councils, landowners				

Action ref: B.11	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	To introduce effective arrangements for the management of routes available for motorised recreational vehicles in the Cambrian Mountains				
Priority	A*				
Comments	<p>The Cambrian Mountains Pilot Project is giving consideration to the management of recreational motorised vehicles (see section 2.5.2(f)). It is investigating the maintenance of opportunities for the use of off-road motorised vehicles as a legitimate outdoor recreation activity. The Pilot Project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop good practice for the management of recreational 				

	vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop good practice for working with a diverse range of stakeholders ▪ Disseminate information and guidance A Strategy and Action Plan is currently being produced.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£32K	£50?	£19	£10	£10
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	WAG, CCW, Powys CC, Carmarthenshire CC, Forestry Commission, Dyfed Powys Police, stakeholders and user groups				

Action ref: B.12	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Produce a protocol for dealing with rights of way complaints				
Priority	B				
Comments	A protocol would cover the Council's approach in dealing with path issues and complaints (e.g. path obstructions). Target date for completion 2010-11.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	-	-	1	-	-
Delivery partners	User groups, NFU, FUW, CLA.				

Action ref: B.13	Aim: To ensure the effective management of the path network				
Action	Develop IT systems to assist in path management				
Priority	A				
Comments	Develop the use of CAMS software in rights of way management, including staff training. CAMS implementation plan to be produced in 2008-09.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	N/A				

Theme C – Meeting the needs of users, including those with mobility problems

Action ref: C.01	Aim: To improve access to the network for all, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems				
Action	Develop a strategic approach for enhancing access and enjoyment of the countryside for those with visual impairment and mobility problems				
Priority	B				
Comments	Consideration to be given to commissioning consultants. To be completed by 2010.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	<£10	-	-	-
Staff	-	1	-	-	-
Delivery partners	CCW, CAVO				

Action ref: C.02	Aim: To improve access to the network for all, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems				
Action	Implement 'least restrictive access' in path management programmes				
Priority	B				
Comments	Path programmes to adopt the presumption of gap-gate-stile to facilitate access.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	Landowners, community councils, CCW				

Action ref: C.03	Aim: To improve access to the path network for all, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems				
Action	Develop and maintain easy access routes for those with visual impairment and mobility problems				
Priority	A				
Comments	'Best practice' guidance available in devising access improvements. Link to the development of a strategic approach to access for those with visual impairment and mobility problems (A.01).				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	-	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, CAVO, landowners				

Action ref: C.04	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Improve, sign and maintain a network of community rights of way				
Priority	B				
Comments	Further investigation is required to identify key routes. They				

	will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe routes to schools ▪ Links to the workplace and shops ▪ Links to community facilities ▪ Links to local features / attractions There is also the potential to secure improvements to routes through Actions B.09 and B.10.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, CAVO, community councils; user groups				

Action ref: C.05	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Improve, sign and maintain circular rights of way networks from selected settlements				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Circular walks and rides of around (approximately 3 miles in length) provide access opportunities for both local people and visitors and help deliver key policies. Further investigation is required into development opportunities at settlements, (including associated promotional activity) and to develop annual targets. Potential to secure improvements to routes through Actions B.09 and B.10.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	CCW, community councils; user groups				

Action ref: C.06	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Provide local access opportunities to comply with WAG 'Climbing Higher' objectives				
Priority	B				
Comments	Action to complement 'Climbing Higher' objective regarding local availability of access. Further assessment required to establish compliance with WAG objectives. Potential to secure improvements to routes through Actions B.09 and B.10.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	WAG, CCW, community and town councils, landowners				

Action ref: C.07	Aim: Ensure that the public path network provides good quality recreational opportunities				
Action	Maintain a network of strategic recreational routes				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Routes developed and promoted by the County Council				

	(included in Appendix 6). Continue to ensure that the standard of recreational routes meets the reasonable expectations of users.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	<£10	<£10	<£10	<£10	<£10
Staff	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Delivery partners	Landowners				

Action ref: C.08	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Complete the development of the Ceredigion Coast Path				
Priority	A*				
Comments	The project, supported under the Objective 1 programme, was opened in July 2008.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	-	-	-	-
Staff	↑	-	-	-	-
Delivery partners	EU, CCW; RA; EU, landowners				

Action ref: C.09	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Contribute to the development of the all-Wales Coast Path				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Development to be supported under the Wales Coastal Access Programme. Priorities will include the creation of new public paths in the areas of the Dyfi and Teifi estuaries, with good links to adjoining counties.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£180K	>£100K	>£100K	>£100K	>£100K
Staff	↑	↑	↑	↑	-
Delivery partners	WAG; CCW; EU; Gwynedd CC; Pembrokeshire CC, RA, Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, landowners				

Action ref: C.10	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Manage the Ceredigion Coast Path and new sections of the all-Wales Coast Path to Wales Coast Path standards.				
Priority	A*				
Comments	CCW have produced guidance on Wales Coast Path route criteria and quality standards.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Delivery partners	RA, landowners				

Action ref: C.11	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Enhance opportunities for access in the coastal zone				
Priority	B				

Comments	Development to be supported under the Wales Coastal Access Programme. Projects will include the development of link paths, circular routes, access for the less-able and, where appropriate, routes for cyclists and horse riders.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	-
Staff	1	1	1	1	-
Delivery partners	WAG; CCW; EU; National Trust, RA, landowners				

Action ref: C.12	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Priority	B				
Action	To develop additional walking opportunities through the development of the following recreational routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teifi Trail (Taith Teifi) ▪ Cylch Ceredigion (linking existing strategic routes to provide a round-Ceredigion Trial) 				
Comments	These projects have been identified in previous plans and strategies but have not yet been implemented due to funding limitations. Public consultation has been carried out into the development of the Teifi Trail and certain rights of way have been included in previous improvement programmes.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	WAG; CCW; EU; EA, Menter groups; RA, Cadw; Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Teifi Rivers Trust.				

Action ref: C.13	Aim: To ensure that public rights of way meet the needs of the community				
Action	Enhance the network of recreational routes by ensuring that <i>selected</i> routes promoted in independent publications are maintained to an appropriate standard				
Priority	C				
Comments	Further consideration will be given to the selection of appropriate routes and the resource implications of pro-active management.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	Landowners				

Action ref: C.14	Aim: To provide opportunities for horse riders				
Action	Improve, maintain and sign networks of horse riding routes				
Priority	A				
Comments	Improved opportunities for horse riding can be linked to proposals for the development of equestrian tourism. Action to include improving the connectivity of networks.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13

Funding	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴	⤴ ⤴
Delivery partners	WAG; CCW; EU, BHS; NFU; FUW; CLA, landowners				

Action ref: C.15	Aim: To provide opportunities for carriage drivers				
Action	Improve the connectivity of route networks for carriage drivers				
Priority	C				
Comments	The improvement of opportunities for carriage horse riding requires further investigation.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	£?
Staff	-	-	-	-	?
Delivery partners	CCW, user groups				

Action ref: C.16	Aim: To provide opportunities for cyclists				
Action	Improve and maintain a network of cycleways and cycle routes				
Priority	A				
Comments	Existing cycleways in Ceredigion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ystwyth Trail ▪ Aberaeron – Llanerchaeron cycleway ▪ Aberystwyth - Glanyrafon 				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£?	£?	£?	£?	£?
Staff	?	?	?	?	?
Delivery partners					

Action ref: C.17	Aim: To provide opportunities for cyclists				
Action	Complete the development of the Ystwyth Trail				
Priority	A				
Comments	The Ystwyth Trail will be completed in 2008 (Aberystwyth to Cors Caron).				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	-	-	-	-
Staff	⤴	-	-	-	-
Delivery partners	WAG; EU; CCW				

Action ref: C.18	Aim: To provide opportunities for cyclists				
Action	Develop new cycleway routes and links. Key proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extension of the Ystwyth Trail to Tregaron ▪ The 'Cardi Bach' route (Ceredigion / Pembrokeshire) 				
Priority	A				
Comments	The Ceredigion Tourism Growth Area Plan includes the above proposals as a first priority. The continuation of the Aberystwyth – Tregaron cycle route to Carmarthen is included in the TGA as a secondary priority.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13

Funding	£?	£?	£?	£?	£?
Staff	?	?	?	?	?
Delivery partners	WAG; EU, Sustrans, Pembrokeshire County Council				

Action ref: C.19	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Action	Improve rights of way leading to Access Land from key locations ('gateways')				
Priority	B				
Comments	Gateway locations are - Furnace, Talybont, Ponterwyd, Devils Bridge, Ponrhydygroes, Ponrhydfendigaid, Tregaron, Llanddewi Brefi and Llyn Brianne				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈
Delivery partners	CCW, landowners				

Action ref: C.20	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Priority	C				
Action	Improve the accessibility of access land through the provision of gates and stiles and signage where appropriate				
Comments	Provision to be made in accordance with guidelines produced by the County Council in 2008.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈
Delivery partners	CCW, landowners				

Action ref: C.21	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Action	Improve the accessibility of access land through the creation of new path links where appropriate				
Priority	C				
Comments	To meet demands for access where none currently exists.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈
Delivery partners	CCW, landowners				

Action ref: C.22	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Action	Improve access opportunities on Common Land as a component of sustainable management measures				
Priority	B				
Comments	The Commons Act 2006 seeks to enhance the agricultural, biodiversity and amenity value of common land. The Act supports the production of management plans.				

Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Delivery partners	CCW, community councils, landowners, common land rightholders				

Action ref: C.23	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Action	Improve access to, and within, managed countryside sites, Forestry Commission land, and other countryside features of interest				
Priority	C				
Comments	There are a number of organisations that manage sites offering recreation opportunities. These include Local Nature Reserves and other sites managed by the County Council.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	-	↑	↑	↑	↑
Delivery partners	CCW, FC, land managers				

Action ref: C.24	Aim: To provide access to 'Access Land' and countryside access sites				
Action	Improve public access to, and on, inland waters				
Priority	C				
Comments	Further investigation into suitable opportunities will be required. The EA is currently producing a Water Recreation Strategy that will provide a framework for action.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£?	£?	£?	£?	£?
Staff	?	?	?	?	?
Delivery partners	EA, CCW, Sports Council, Teifi Rivers Trust, riparian owners, angling clubs				

Action ref: C.25	Aim: To support the use of 'green transport' for countryside access				
Action	Encourage the use of public transport as a component of recreational path promotion				
Priority	B				
Comments	This topic will be pursued through the Regional Transport Plan (Tracc)				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£?	£?	£?	£?	£?
Staff	?	?	?	?	?
Delivery partners	Tracc				

Action ref: C.26	Aim: To support the use of 'green transport' for countryside access				
Action	Support and promote the operation of the 'Cardi Bach'				
Priority	A*				

Comments	The Cardi Bach was introduced in 2004 as a component of the Ceredigion Coast Path project. It has proved to be a popular service and long-term revenue funding solutions should be explored.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£25K	£25K	£25K	£25K	£25K
Staff	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	EU, Tracc, CCW, Tourism Partnership Mid Wales, National Trust, CAVO, Menter Aberteifi, community councils.				

Theme D – Working in partnership

Action ref: D.01	Aim: To facilitate partnership working and to contribute to the effective delivery of related plans and strategies				
Action	Improve and enhance rights of way and access opportunities through sustainable transport, tourism, health and recreation initiatives and programmes				
Priority	B				
Comments	Maximise funding opportunities through associated programmes and initiatives. Secure the coordination of action through various plans and strategies.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	National and local partners				

Action ref: D.02	Aim: To facilitate partnership working and to contribute to the effective delivery of related plans and strategies				
Action	Secure improvements to the rights of way through agri-environment programmes				
Priority	B				
Comments	Effective communication and coordination to ensure that maximum benefit derives from improvements to rights of way through the Gofal and Tir Cynnal schemes				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	WAG, landowners				

Action ref: D.03	Aim: To facilitate partnership working and to contribute to the effective delivery of related plans and strategies				
Action	Re-introduce the 'Walking Your Way to Health' scheme				
Priority	C				
Comments	Promotion of active lifestyles that contribute to health and wellbeing through the delivery of annual walking programmes.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K	£10-50K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	HSCWB Strategic Partnership, Local Heath Board, CCW, volunteer groups				

Action ref: D.04	Aim: To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network				
Action	Support and promote the work of the Ceredigion Local Access Forum				
Priority	A*				
Comments	The Local Access Forum was established under the CROW				

	Act 2000. The Forum advises the County Council and others on rights of way and countryside recreation matters.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	N/A				

Action ref: D.05	Aim: To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network				
Action	Effective liaison with user groups and landowners / land managers				
Priority	A				
Comments	The Council shall seek to ensure that that are channels of communication between the County Council and countryside and rights of way interest groups.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	LAF, user groups, farming unions				

Action ref: D.06	Aim: To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network				
Action	To develop liaison arrangements between Ceredigion County Council and Community Councils in Ceredigion through the establishment of local forums.				
Priority	B				
Comments	There are 54 Community Councils within Ceredigion each with discretionary powers to deal with path and other related access issues. The County Council will explore opportunities to improve liaison with community councils and to develop capacity in local rights of way and access matters. The proposed forums would be based on the rights of way management areas in the County (see Appendix 5) and would meet on an annual basis. Support for community and town councils in path management is covered by Actions B.09 and B.10				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	-	⤴	⤴	⤴	⤴
Delivery partners	One Voice Wales, community councils				

Action ref: D.07	Aim: To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network				
Action	Support user group involvement in rights of way maintenance and improvement				
Priority	A*				
Comments	Ongoing support for carrying out improvements to the path network through Ramblers Association volunteer work groups. The works are carried out under the guidance of the Area Rangers.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13

Funding	£	£	£	£	£
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, RA				

Action ref: D.08	Aim: To encourage community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network				
Action	Re-introduction of the 'Adopt a Path' scheme				
Priority	C				
Comments	An 'Adopt a Path' scheme has previously operated informally along sections of coastal path. It offers a means of alerting the County Council to rights of way issues.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Staff	-	-	-	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	CCW, user groups, community organisations and local people				

Theme E – Raising awareness about rights of way and access

Action ref: E.01	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Provide information about strategic linear recreational routes in Ceredigion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ceredigion Coast Path ▪ Wales Coast Path ▪ Aberaeron - Lampeter ▪ Borth - Pontrydfendigaid 				
Priority	A*				
Comments	The provision of information about access opportunities, including walks guides and web site information.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	£10K
Staff	1	1	1	1	-
Delivery partners	WAG, CCW				

Action ref: E.02	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Provide information about other strategic recreational routes				
Priority	B				
Comments	Existing information produced by County Council on recreation routes is indicated in Appendix 6. The development of additional walks guides and web site information, linked to programmes of path improvement and path maintenance, will assist in enhancing the potential of the path network for a range of users.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	,<£10K	,<£10K	,<£10K	,<£10K	,<£10K
Staff	1	1	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, FC, Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, National Trust, Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust (etc).				

Action ref: E.03	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Provide information about access opportunities at countryside sites				
Priority	C				
Comments	Feasibility and potential for the provision of coordinated information about access opportunities at countryside sites in Ceredigion should be investigated.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	£
Staff	-	-	-	-	1
Delivery partners	CCW, FC, Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, National Trust, Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust (etc).,				

Action ref: E.04	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Provide information about 'Open Access' opportunities in Ceredigion				
Priority	C				
Comments	Feasibility and potential should be investigated. This action could be linked to E.03.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	-	-	£
Staff	-	-	-	-	1
Delivery partners	CCW, farming unions.				

Action ref: E.05	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Provide information about access opportunities on rights of way near selected towns and villages				
Priority	B				
Comments	Provide information (walks guides and / or web information) on community walks, linked to programmes of path improvement and path maintenance (see also Actions B.09, B.10, C.05 and D.06).				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	-	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	-	-	1	1	1
Delivery partners	CCW, community councils				

Action ref: E.06	Aim: To promote and encourage high-quality access opportunities in Ceredigion				
Action	Deliver an annual programme of guided walks in Ceredigion				
Priority	B				
Comments	The County Council has previously delivered annual programmes of guided walks that have proved popular with visitors and residents alike. This action proposed the re-introduction of this feature.				
Resources:	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Funding	-	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K	<£10K
Staff	-	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Delivery partners	CCW				

APPENDICES



- Appendix 1 **Glossary**
- Appendix 2 **Countryside sites in Ceredigion**
- Appendix 3 **Rights of way responsibilities**
- Appendix 4 **Strategic Context – Relevant plans and strategies**
- Appendix 5 **Path management areas in Ceredigion**
- Appendix 6 **Access promotion and publicity (Ceredigion County Council)**

GLOSSARY

BOAT	Byway Open to All Traffic
CAMs	Countryside Access Management System
CAVO	Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
C/side Act 1968	Countryside Act 1968
CCC	Ceredigion County Council
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
Ceredigion TGA	Ceredigion Tourism Growth Area Plan
CLR Act 1965	Common Land Registration Act 1965
CPS	Community Path Scheme
CROW Act 2000	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
DD Act 1995	Disability Discrimination Act 1995
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
GIS	Geographical Information System
H Act 1980	Highways Act 1980
HSCWB Partnership	Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LLC Act 1975	Local Land Charges Act 1975
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP&AC Act 1949	National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949
PI	Performance Indicator
'PLWM'	Spirit of the Miners (Phase 2)
RA	Ramblers Association
ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
RT Regs Act 1984	Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984
RTP	Regional Transport Plan
RUPP	Road Used as Public Path
T&CP Act 1990	Town and Country Planning Act 1990
TGA	Tourism Growth Area Plan (Ceredigion)
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
W&C Act 1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WTB	Wales Tourist Board

COUNTRYSIDE SITES IN CEREDIGION

Ceredigion County Council

Parc Natur Penglais (LNR), Aberystwyth
Pendinas and Traeth Tan y Bwlch LNR, Aberystwyth
Cwm Woods, Aberystwyth
Llanina Woods, New Quay
Maes y Pwll, New Quay (with New Quay Town Council)
Cenarth Riverside
Parcllyn, Aberystwyth
Geufron, Aberystwyth
Llwyn yr Eos, Aberystwyth
Panteg Woods (part), Aberaeron

Woodland Access Agreements – woodland sites at Penwenallt, Cwmere, Crossway Wood, Coed y Castell, Banc y Llyn and Mynydd Brith

National Nature Reserves¹¹

Allt Rhyd y Groes NNR (part)
Coedmor NNR
Coed Rheidol NNR
Cors Caron NNR
Dyfi NNR (Ynyslas)
Llyn Eiddwen
Rhos Llawr Cwrt NNR

Forestry Commission

Nant yr Arian
Artists Valley
Ystrad Einion
Ty'n Bedw
Black Covert Wood, Trawscoed
Gogerddan
The Arch
Hafod¹²
Pwll Peiran
Pantfedwen

National Trust

Llanerchaeron
Bird's Rock, New Quay
Penbryn
Mwnt

¹¹ Access is limited at certain sites.

¹² Managed in partnership with the Hafod Trust

Wildlife Trust West Wales

Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran (part)
Aberstrincell Limekilns*
Allt Crug Garn
Allt Pencnwc
Caeau Llety Cybi
Coed Maidie B Goddard*
Coed Penglanowen*
Coed Simdde Lwyd*
Cors Ian*
Cwm Clettwr*
Llyn Eiddwen*
Llyn Fanod
Old Warren Hill*
Pant Da*
Penderi Cliffs*
Pennar Fawr
Rhos Fullbrook
Rhos Glandenys
Rhos Glyn yr Helyg
Rhos Pil Bach
Rhos y Fforest

(sites marked with an asterisk have PROW or permissive path links).

Woodland Trust

Coed Geufron, Aberystwyth
Coed Allt Goch, Pisgah
Coed y Bobol, Devil's Bridge
Coed Nant y Berws, Pontrhydygroes
Waun Garthenor, Llanddewi Brefi
Coed Creuddyn, Lampeter
Allt Cefn Maesllan / Coed Perthneidr, Llanarth
Coed y Foel, Llandysul
Coed Tyddyn Du, Cenarth
Coed y Mwldan, Cardigan

Cadw

Strata Florida Abbey
Furnace

Other Sites

Allt y Graig, Aberaeron (Aberaeron Town Council)
Denmark Farm (Shared Earth Trust)
Ynys Hir Reserve, RSPB

RIGHTS OF WAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Function	Legislation	Details
Management of Rights of Way		
Protect public rights over public paths.	H Act 1980 (S. 130(1))	Duty to assert and protect public rights in respect of the use and enjoyment of public paths.
Preventing the obstruction of a rights of way.	H Act 1980 (S. 130(3))	Duty to prevent as far as possible the stopping up or obstruction of public paths.
Path signposting	C/side Act 1968	Duty to sign all rights of way where they leave the metalled road.
Maintain rights of way (a)	H Act 1980 (S. 41)	Duty to maintain the surface of rights of way. This provision extends to a duty to maintain bridges (under S 328).
Maintain rights of way (b)	H Act 1980 (S. 56)	Service of notice on the local highway authority requiring repair of a public path
Maintain rights of way (c)	H Act 1980 (S. 146)	Responsibility of landowners to maintain stiles, gates, etc. on public paths.
Improvement of rights of way	H Act 1980 (S. 146)	Power to carry out improvements to rights of way.
Needs of the disabled	DD Act 1995; & CROW Act 2000 (S. 69)	Requires local authorities to consider the needs of people with mobility problems when authorising the erection of new stiles and gates on footpaths or bridleways.
Path obstructions	CROW Act 2000 (S. 63)	Process under which members of the public can seek the removal of path obstructions through serving notice on the authority.
Path waymarking	C/side Act 1968	Provision of waymarking on rights of way.
Definitive Map / Open Access		
Definitive Map of Rights of Way	W&C Act 1981	Duty to keep the Definitive Map and Statement under continuous review. Amendments to the Definitive Map are made as a result of: a. 'Legal Events'. Changes to the Map where legal orders have already been made in respect of diversions, creations and extinguishments. b. 'Evidential Events'. Covers the process of modification of the Definitive Map as a result paths added through presumed dedication; the existence of an unrecorded path; that a path should be recorded with a different status; and that a path should be deleted.
Applications for the modification of the Definitive Map	W&C Act 1981 (S. 53)	Duty to process applications made for the modification of the Definitive Map.

Closure of the Definitive Map	CROW Act 2000 (S. 53) & W&C Act 1981 (S. 53)	The CROW Act identified a 'cut-off date' of 2026 for applications for rights of way (based on historical evidence) to modify the Definitive Map. Duty to process applications for the Modification of the Definitive Map.
Reclassification of RUPPS (a)	W&C Act 1981 (S. 54)	Duty to reclassify RUPPS.
Reclassification of RUPPS (b)	CROW Act 2000 (S. 47)	Automatic reclassification of RUPPS to Restricted Byways.
Changes to the Public Rights of Way network (a)	H Act 1980 (S. 116; 118; 119) & TCP Act 1990	Power to make changes to the public rights of way network (diversions, creations, extinguishments). Includes changes to routes arising from grant of planning permission.
Changes to the Public Rights of Way network (b)	CROW Act 2000 (S. 57)	Provisions for the extinguishment and diversion of public paths for the purposes of protecting pupils and staff where a path crosses school property.
Temporary Diversions (TROs)	RT Regs Act 1984 (S. 22) & CROW Act (S.66)	Duty to process applications for temporary diversions to rights of way (to facilitate works and other operations).
Management of 'Open Access' land.	CROW Act 2000 (Part 1)	The Council has powers to manage open access land in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provision of a warden service. ▪ The making of byelaws. ▪ Provision of access information and signage. ▪ Improving access to open access land. ▪ Providing new access to 'islands' of access land.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT - RELEVANT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

a. National and regional plans and strategies	
'Environment Strategy for Wales' WAG (2003)	<p>The Environment Strategy is WAG's long term strategy for the environment of Wales, setting the direction for the next 20 years. The Strategy highlights the extensive network of public rights of way in Wales (totalling over 20,750 miles / 33,200km) and access land that is available (approximately 20% of Wales), but notes that in 2004/05 Performance Indicators revealed that only 51.4% of rights of way were easy to use by members of the public.</p> <p>The Strategy is a key strategic document for rights of way and access and its focus of activity is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving walkability in urban areas to encourage walking and cycling ▪ Increasing opportunities for access to the Welsh countryside and coast for those living in, as well as those visiting, Wales. ▪ Ensuring appropriate access, including managing the volume of people and the mode of transport in sensitive areas and ensuring that associated infrastructure minimises its impact on the environment. ▪ Working to increase equality of opportunity in physical access by identifying and removing inappropriate barriers to access.
'Best Foot Forward' WTB (2003)	<p>Sets out a framework for ensuring a high quality walking product in Wales. Its seven strategic objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The best-managed and maintained rights of way network ▪ The best choice of walks ▪ The best presented walks literature ▪ The best walking information services ▪ The best integrated walking and public transport ▪ The best facilities, services and welcome for walkers ▪ The best marketed walking
'Moving up a Gear - A Cycle Tourism Strategy for Wales' WTB (2003)	<p>This provides a strategic framework for developing and marketing cycle tourism in Wales 2000-2007 with key priorities for action and a strategy for implementation.</p>

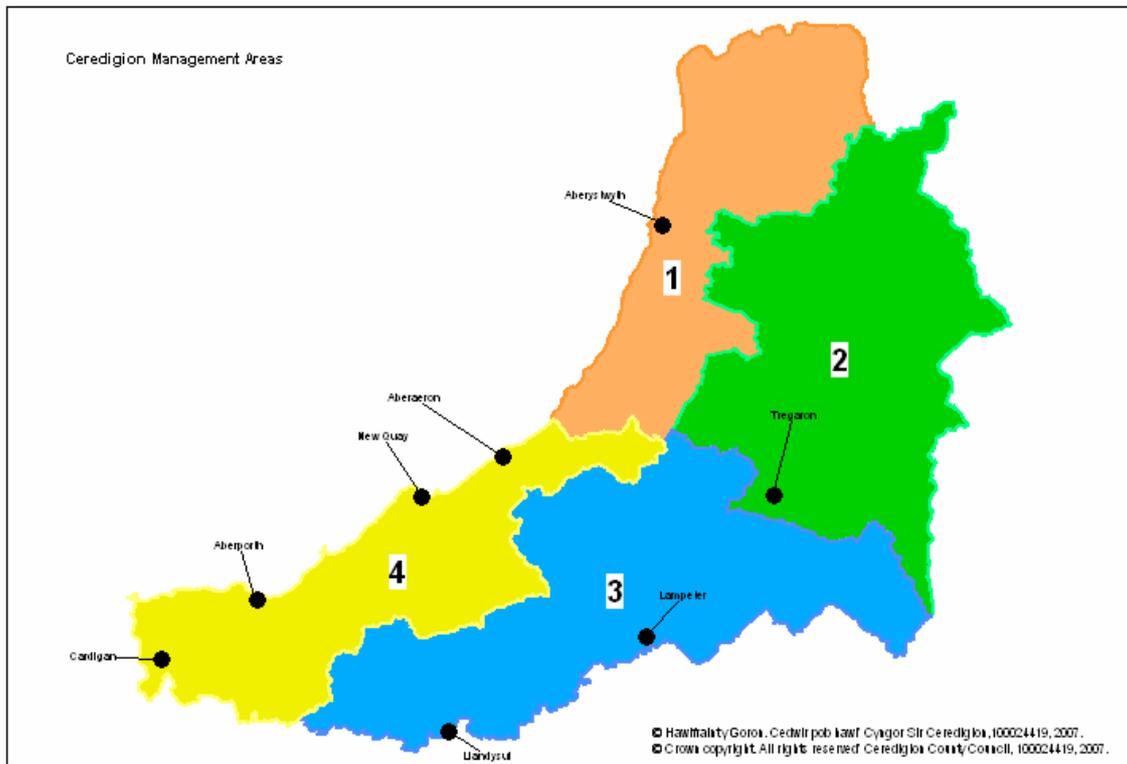
<p>'Saddling up for Success – a Riding Tourism Strategy for Wales' WTB (2003)</p>	<p>This seeks to exploit Wales's natural strengths in developing riding as a tourism activity and Wales as a destination for that activity. The report identifies the need to develop a range of short, braided, circular and long-distance routes and recognises the importance of taking opportunities forward in partnership.</p> <p>The strategy has policies of direct relevance for the ROWIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop better maintained network of routes and trails and create product and marketing links between routes and other tourist rider products and services ▪ Post-arrival information – encourage improved waymarking of trails and routes, production of route trails and maps, development of guided trails and information on rider support facilities.
<p>'Coastal Tourism Strategy' WAG (to be published in 2008)</p>	<p>The coastal tourism strategy proposes to build on the economic potential of the coastline of Wales taking account of environmental considerations and the potential for community benefits.</p> <p>The strategy draws attention to WAG proposals to increase public access to the coast and the development of the all-Wales Coastal Footpath.</p>
<p>'Cardigan Bay Action Plan' WAG (2007)</p>	<p>The Action Plan builds on a number of strategic documents such as the Wales Spatial Plan and the Coastal Tourism Strategy. The Plan identifies nine key Action Plan components, which include the coastal footpath and access and coastal and visitor management.</p> <p>It is intended that the Action Plan components can be related to EU Convergence Funding, Spatial Frameworks, and tourism strategies.</p>
<p>'Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales' WAG (2003)</p>	<p>A strategy and action plan to encourage provision and increased use of travel facilities, support sustainable development, reduce adverse impact of motorised traffic and encourage healthy lifestyles. Walking and cycling are noted as both utility and leisure activities and horse riding is mentioned in relation to its interactions with walking and cycling.</p>
<p>'Regional Transport Plan', TraCC.</p>	<p>TraCC (a consortium comprising Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd County Councils) is producing a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for the mid-Wales area. The RTP will be developed around the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing demand for transport infrastructure ▪ Reducing environmental impacts ▪ Improving safety and scrutiny ▪ Improving accessibility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraging sustainable travel ▪ Improving strategic connections ▪ Influencing land use planning ▪ Monitoring and evaluation <p>The RTP is currently in production. The Welsh Assembly Government wishes to see integration between the RTPs and ROWIPs. For example, the RTP should identify the policy objectives being pursued for ROWIP development in their region and consolidate those of greatest relevance within the regional transport plan. The RTP is also the mechanism by which certain capital funding for improvements could be attracted for rights of way and access projects.</p>
'Climbing Higher' WAG (2005)	<p>The Assembly strategy for sport and physical activity covers a 20 year period. It seeks to increase physical activity and to improve health. It includes the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the percentage of people using the natural environment will increase from 36% to 60% ▪ 95% of people will have a footpath or cycle path within a ten-minute walk ▪ No one should live more than a six minute walk (300m) from their nearest natural greenspace.
b. Local plans and strategies	
'Ceredigion 2020' Ceredigion 2020 Partnership (2005)	<p>The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities a new duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their local communities and to promote sustainability. The Community Strategy sets out a vision for the next 10-15 years and will help guide actions by organisations and communities in Ceredigion. The strategy identifies five major themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health, social care and well-being ▪ Economically successful ▪ High quality environment ▪ Learning for life ▪ Stronger communities <p>Forming part of the Community Strategy, the Ceredigion Environment Partnership has produced an 'Environment Linkage Framework' (ELF) which set out environmental priorities (including '<i>providing opportunities for enjoying the Ceredigion countryside</i>'). Aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The improvement of public rights of way ▪ The improvement of countryside access opportunities ▪ Improved countryside access for the less able.

<p>'Corporate Strategy 2004-08' CCC (2004)</p>	<p>The Corporate Strategy 2004-2008 sets out the framework for the delivery of the Council's services and budgeting. The management of rights of way and the provision of countryside access make key contributions to the following aims of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that people live in or have access to good quality and affordable housing and live a healthy life-style in a high quality environment ▪ Promote Economic development and regeneration for the benefit of the local community <p>The Council produces an annual Corporate Plan that sets out actions to be taken forward in that year. Actions included in the 2007-08 plan include the Coast Path project, the Coastal Access Improvement programme and the Cambrian Mountains pilot project. The Plan includes a target of 43% of paths being easy to use by the public.</p>
<p>'Ceredigion Unitary Development Plan', CCC (2006)</p>	<p>The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) set out the land use policy framework for the development and use of land and buildings in the County over the period 2001 to 2016. Relevant policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The network of registered public rights of way will be protected, maintained and improved. ▪ The Council will encourage the provision of a network of cycleways across the County to enable improved access to the countryside by cycle. ▪ Diversion of Public Rights of Way will only be permitted where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) It is required to enable development to take place; (2) The proposal results in the provision of a not substantially longer and no less commodious route for the public. ▪ Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way will only be permitted where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) It is required to enable development to take place, and there is no potential for an alternative route (2) It is not needed for public use. <p>The UDP also includes policies for local accessibility by walking and cycling (T2.4) and the strategic cycle network (T3.3).</p> <p>The UDP was not formally adopted although its policies are a material consideration in planning decisions. The Council are currently engaged in the production of a Local Development Plan which will be the new land-use</p>

	plan for Ceredigion.
'Ceredigion Tourism Growth Area (TGA) Implementation Plan', CCC (2002)	<p>The plan highlights the major tourism investment programmes underway within the County and focuses attention on the need to invest in ancillary tourism facilities. The TGA emphasises the importance of walking and cycling for the development of tourism and builds on the provisions of the Countryside Strategy. The long-term objective for Ceredigion's tourism development is a county in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All rights of way are unobstructed and signposted ▪ There is a network of interlinking high quality named walking and cycling routes that reach all parts of the county and link to the countryside beyond the county boundaries ▪ A network of circular walks has been developed from the linear spine to ensure that 'long distance walks' can be walked as a series of individual circular walks ▪ Every settlement has its own local walks ▪ There is high quality information provision concerning access opportunities in the countryside. ▪ That access routes are all linked into the public transport network.
'The Ceredigion Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy', CCC (2004)	<p>The strategy covers the range of services provided by the Local Health Board, the Health Trusts and the County Council. It contains an 'Implementation Action Plan' for the period 2005-08 and a number of key priorities. The following measures are included under this priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that health and well-being benefits are considered in the development and implementation of cycling and walking strategies, coast and countryside development, safe routes to schools plans, etc. ▪ To support the development of the 'Walking the Way to Health' programme. <p>A Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy for the period 2008 to 2011 is currently being produced.</p>

PATH MANAGEMENT AREAS IN CEREDIGION



**EXISTING STRATEGIC RECREATIONAL ROUTES:
ACCESS PROMOTION & PUBLICITY - CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL**

Route / Location	Users	Leaflet / booklet	Website
Coast Path / Coastal Access			
Ceredigion Coast Path		✓	✓
Llannon - Llanrhystud		✓	
Coast & Countryside walks & rides			
Aberaeron - Lampeter		✓	✓
Borth - Devil's Bridge - Pontrhyfendigaid		✓	✓
Aberaeron		✓	✓
Aberystwyth (Constitution Hill)		✓	✓
Lampeter (Allt Goch)	  	✓	✓
Newquay - Cwmtedu		✓	✓
Rhydlewis	  	✓	✓
Trefeurig	  	✓	✓
Tresaith - Aberporth		✓	✓
Circular routes along Borth to Pontrhyfendigaid route:			
Talybont			✓
Cwmsymlog			✓
Bontgoch			✓
Nant yr Arian			✓
Devil's Bridge			✓
'Walking the Teifi Estuary'			
Llechryd to Penparc (No. 4)		✓	✓
Cardigan to Mwnt (No. 5)		✓	✓
Cycleways and Trails:			
Aberaeron - Llanerchaeron	 		✓
Ystwyth Trail	  		✓
Aberystwyth - Glanyrafon	 	✓	
Cycle routes ('cycle hubs')			
Aberaeron / Newquay		✓	✓
Cardigan		✓	✓
Lampeter / Tregaron		✓	✓

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Title of plan / programme	Ceredigion Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Plan purpose	To identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to the rights of way network in Ceredigion
What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions)?	Required under legislation - Sections 60 and 61 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Plan subject	Public rights of way and related countryside and coastal access matters
Period covered by plan	2008 to 2018
Frequency of plan updates	The plan will be reviewed during the period to 2018
Plan area (e.g. sq kms)	The County of Ceredigion
Summary of nature/content of plan	The plan identifies, prioritises and plans for improvements to the rights of way network in Ceredigion. It also addresses the need to improve access opportunities blind or partially sighted people and others with mobility problems.
Date of screening	August 2008
Contact details of lead officer	Ian Dutch Ceredigion County Council) Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion Telephone: 01545 572105
SEA required Yes / No?	No

This document seeks to screen plans and programmes to establish whether an assessment is required in order to comply with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1656 W170). The Responsible Authorities have considered the criteria included within Schedule 1 of the Regulations as detailed below and have determined that the production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Pembrokeshire is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and will therefore not be the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive).

Section 1 determines whether the plan or programme is relevant under the SEA Directive. Section 2 allows for a description of the likely significant effects.

The Authority's determination of each of the stated criteria is detailed on the following pages.

SECTION 1: Criteria for determining whether the document is a plan or programme under the SEA regulations.	County Council comments
The plan or programme (PP) is subject to preparation or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government (2.1.a and 2.1.b).	The Ceredigion Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has been prepared by Ceredigion County Council and will be adopted by the Authority.
The PP is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (2.1.c).	Yes – Sections 60 and 61 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000
The preparation of the PP began on or after 21/7/2004 (5.1.a).	No
The preparation of the PP began before the 21/7/2004 and its adoption or submission to legislative procedure will be after 22/7/2006 (6.1.a).	Yes
The PP is for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use (5.2.a) and sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II of Council Directive 97/11/EC (amending Council Directive 85/337/EEC) (5.2.b).	No – the ROWIP relates to public rights of way and some closely related countryside and coastal access issues. There are links to some of the listed topics, such as agriculture, tourism and land use but it is not specifically a plan for any of these activities. The ROWIP sets the strategic context for the maintenance and improvement of the rights of way network in Ceredigion.
The PP is, in view of its likely effect on sites, determined to require an assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive (5.3).	The ROWIP is unlikely to have a significant effect on sites in its own right, although it will provide a context for detailed proposals that might have such an effect. There are a number of European designated protected areas in, partly in and adjoining Ceredigion (SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites). It is not considered that this plan requires an assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive.
Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (5.4.b)?	The ROWIP sets a framework for the management and improvement of the rights of way network in Ceredigion. There is a dedicated legislative regime for rights of way.
Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2 (where the Member States determine that they are likely to have significant environmental effects)?	Rights of Way are by their nature of a narrow, linear form and their impacts tend to be highly localised. Other forms of countryside access (e.g. Open Access) can have impacts over wider areas.
Is the PP sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a	There is a financial element to the ROWIP that can provide a basis for funding

financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes?	applications.
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SECTION 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.	County Council Comments
Assessing whether the PP is likely to have significant environment effect (5.4.c).	The criteria for assessing significant environmental effect are listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations which are addressed below.
<p>Characteristics of the PP having regard to:</p> <p>(a) The degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p> <p>(b) The degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p> <p>(c) The relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>(d) Environmental problems relevant to the PP.</p> <p>(e) The relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.</p>	<p>a) The ROWIP is a strategic document setting a framework within which maintenance and improvement of the rights of way network will be planned (and therefore activities and projects identified). There will be spatial and resource allocation implications to its implementation.</p> <p>b) The ROWIP will have a bearing on other plans, policies and programmes produced by the Authority. It will also have a influence plans and programmes prepared by other organisations.</p> <p>c) The implementation of the ROWIP will have an influence on the environment of the County. The ROWIP vision makes it clear that the intention is to provide high quality, sustainable opportunities to reach the coast and countryside of Ceredigion. This focus is reflected throughout the plan.</p> <p>d) The ROWIP is fundamentally concerned with improving access to the coast and countryside of Ceredigion. It seeks to do this in a sustainable manner. The nature of the access provided and promoted is 'low impact'.</p> <p>e) The ROWIP is not a plan whose primary purpose is to implement community legislation on the environment. However, its provisions do have an environmental dimension and its aim is to provide sustainable opportunities to reach the coast and countryside and coast of Ceredigion. These elements are also reflected in the Community Strategy ('Ceredigion 2020')</p>
<p>The characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard to:</p> <p>(a) The probability, duration, frequency</p>	a) The ROWIP is unlikely to have significant

<p>and reversibility of the effects.</p> <p>(b) The cumulative nature of the effects.</p> <p>(c) The transboundary nature of the effects.</p> <p>(d) The risks to human health or the environment</p> <p>(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p> <p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p><i>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</i></p>	<p>environmental effects, although the implementation of proposals arising from its general provisions might have localised impacts. The plan runs for a 10 year period. The frequency of activity might vary widely, from access improvement to regular maintenance works (such as grass cutting). Creation of access opportunities can normally take place without significant long term detriment to the environment and temporary effects are often capable of being reversed if the correct procedures are used.</p> <p>b) The ROWIP is unlikely to produce significant negative cumulative effects. Environmental impacts of maintenance and improvement of the rights of way network will generally be localised and in some cases of a temporary nature.</p> <p>c) The impacts of ROWIP implementation will be localised and whilst there might be minor impacts (quite possibly of a positive nature) on adjoining counties (Powys, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire) there would be no significant impacts on other EU member states.</p> <p>d) In general, inappropriate use of the rights of way network could potentially place human health at risk and cause environmental damage. The ROWIP encourages responsible use of the network.</p> <p>e) The rights of way network currently extends over 2,506 kms and is distributed throughout the County. There is also 25,993 Ha of 'Access land' identified under the CROW Act, with additional areas dedicated. Within Ceredigion about 78,280 people reside (2005, mid year estimate), to which can be added significant numbers of tourists. There may be spatial effects beyond the County boundary if cross-boundary proposals are implemented. The Authority considers that ROWIP implementation will be primarily of a positive nature.</p> <p>f) Ceredigion's landscape includes an attractive coastline and extensive and highly varied countryside including the uplands of the Cambrian Mountains, valleys, intensively farmed lowlands, woodlands and estuaries. Ceredigion also has diverse and highly valued habitats and species. It is not anticipated that the ROWIP will have significant negative effects on either landscape or biodiversity.</p> <p>(i) Ceredigion has a large number of designated sites, including various European</p>
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<p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; and</p> <p>(iii) Intensive land-use.</p> <p>(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>sites designated for habitats and species (SACs, SPAs, etc) and even more Nationally important sites and areas, including many Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Landscape, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas and Townscape Heritage Initiatives. In combination these contribute to the special natural characteristics and cultural heritage of the area which require protection and enhancement. It is not anticipated that the ROWIP will have significant negative impacts on any of these.</p> <p>(ii) It is unlikely that any actions arising from the ROWIP will have a significant negative impact on any designated sites or more generally on the quality of either landscapes or biodiversity in the County.</p> <p>(iii) The ROWIP will not result in the implementation of any proposals that might constitute intensive land-use. Its impact will generally be localised and of modest scale and significance in terms of environmental impact.</p> <p>g) The ROWIP is unlikely to have any significant effects on landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. Although the ROWIP will facilitate sustainable access into and through these areas, it is unlikely that it will cause any significant negative impacts in the designated areas or more generally across Pembrokeshire as a whole.</p>
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SECTION 3: Consultation	
<p>Guidance produced by WAG on the production of ROWIPs did not make reference to any requirement for screening under SEA Directive. The suggestion that the ROWIP be screened for arose during consultation on the draft plan in 2008. Therefore the required consultation process with the organisations listed below has not been followed. However, three of the four organisations have been consulted on the draft plan and have submitted comments.</p>	
Consultee	Comments
Cadw	Cadw drew attention to the positive contribution that the historic environment can make in countryside access. These comments have been incorporated in the final plan.
Countryside Council for Wales	Submitted detailed comments on the draft ROWIP that the Authority has, in most instances, responded to in the manner

	requested.
Environment Agency Wales	Consulted on the draft ROWIP. Submitted comments on the draft ROWIP relating to practical / operational issues relating to rights of way works. No changes to the final plan required.
Welsh Assembly Government	Not consulted.

