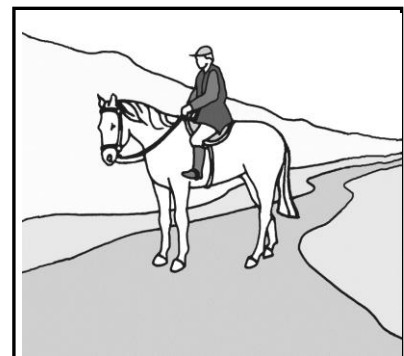
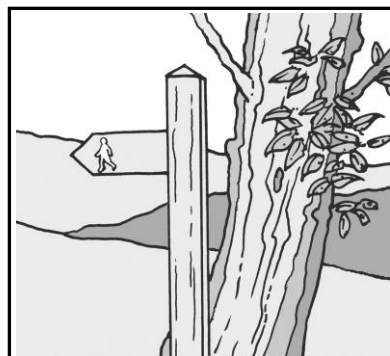
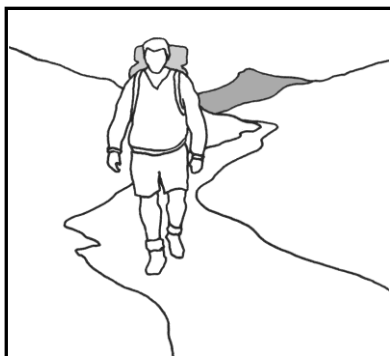




CEREDIGION

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2008-18

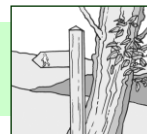
PLAN REVIEW 2013



**Economic and Community Development Services
Ceredigion County Council**

July 2013

CONTENTS



FOREWORD (page 3)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (page 5)

PART 1 (page 7)

- 1.1 What is the Rights of Way Improvement Plan?
- 1.2 The review of the ROWIP
- 1.3 Policy Context
- 1.4 A profile of Ceredigion
- 1.5 The importance of rights of way and access
- 1.6 Rights of Way and access provision

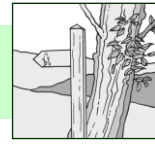
PART 2 (page 19)

- 2.1 Producing the Action Plan
- 2.2 Implementation and Review
- 2.3 ROWIP actions and Resources
- 2.4 The ROWIP Action Plan

APPENDICES (page 39)

- Appendix 1 Glossary
- Appendix 2 Rights of way responsibilities
- Appendix 3 Primary Path Network - Ceredigion
- Appendix 4 Path management areas in Ceredigion
- Appendix 5 Countryside sites in Ceredigion
- Appendix 6 Access promotion and publicity - Ceredigion County Council
- Appendix 7 Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2011
- Appendix 8 The Habitats Directive

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 valuable economic asset that helps create jobs. What is 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 and well-being in Wales.

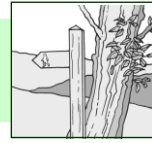
Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) provide the means by which we can ensure that the rights of way network fulfils its potential. The Ceredigion ROWIP was approved in 2008 and has now been reviewed: plan progress has been assessed, actions revisited and a more streamlined plan has been produced covering the latter part of the plan period (to 2018). The Local Access Forum, through its ROWIP sub-committee has been instrumental in carrying out the review of the ROWIP.

By 2018 we will work towards having a path network that is substantially accessible and that is valued by all sections of the community. The involvement of the community and partner organisations in the years ahead will be a key element in securing countryside access improvements that benefit both the local community and visitors to Ceredigion.

A process of review and monitoring will ensure that the ROWIP adapts to change. The Action Plan will be monitored annually and the plan as a whole will be reviewed every three years. In this way the ROWIP will continue to provide an effective framework in the management of rights of way and access in Ceredigion.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2008 the County Council approved its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), produced to meet the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. For the first time, local authorities had a legal requirement to plan for the better management of the rights of way network. The present document is an update of that original Plan and it not only takes account of changes that have occurred, but it also simplifies it. The main changes are in Section 2.4 which outlines the Actions to be taken.

Within Ceredigion there are 2,524 km (1,568) miles of public rights of way. There are also large areas of 'Open Access' land and a range of countryside sites managed by various organisations.

In producing the plan the County Council has looked at the extent to which 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.

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 and well-being in Wales. Rights of way and cycle routes also offer traffic-free routes from people's homes to local facilities and places of work.

A key component of the 2008 ROWIP was a 'Statement of Action' which sought to reflect the aspirations of path users and set a framework for the sustained improvement of the path network over the next 10 years. It provided 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.

At the time that the ROWIP was produced it was recognised that there would be a need to review the plan and 'roll-forward' the actions. In this way the Plan could take account of progress made in delivering improvements to the path network and reflect upon changes in national and local policy developments.

As well as keeping the ROWIP up-to-date, this review has also provided an opportunity to streamline the actions and to giving further consideration to

priorities for the period to 2018. The revised Action Plan is now built around the following themes:

1. Maintaining the Definitive Map.
2. General approach to managing and protecting the rights of way network
3. Areas to be targeted in the management and protection of the rights of way network so as to meet the needs of specific user groups

The ROWIP actions are strategic in nature although in some instances are path or area specific. In many instances actions will be developed through the production of annual programmes and detailed action plans.

The production of the ROWIP is a statutory duty and, whilst its implementation is not, there is an expectation that the Council will seek to ensure that the plan is delivered. The actions continue to be 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 also be achieved through improved efficiency, adopting best practice, partnership working and through the support and engagement of the local community.

After 2018, production of a ROWIP will no longer be a statutory duty for the Council, but one of the recommendations of the Local Access Forum is that it should continue to be updated because of its usefulness.



PART 1



1.1 WHAT IS THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN?

Ceredigion County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was produced in 2008 in accordance with the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)¹. For the first time, local authorities had a legal requirement to plan strategically over a ten year period for the development, better management and promotion of their existing local rights of way and changes or additions to the rights of way network.

Rights of Way Improvement Plans are the prime means by which local authorities identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to their local rights of way network – and in doing so make better provision for a range of path and trail users (such as walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and people with mobility problems). The Plan also takes account of the significant amount of 'Access Land' that is available in Ceredigion under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as well permissive access provided under agri-environmental schemes.

The Welsh Assembly Government issued guidance to local authorities on the production of ROWIPs. The production of the Ceredigion plan followed this guidance; the process is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

In producing the ROWIP, the Council considered:

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

The Plan consisted 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.

The series of assessments produced by the Council in 2007 and 2008 covered the following topics²:

1. The strategic context for the management of rights of way;
2. The Definitive Map – the legal definition of public rights of way;

¹ The approved ROWIP (2008) is available on the Councils' web site:
www.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9011

² The ROWIP Assessments are available at:
www.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9011

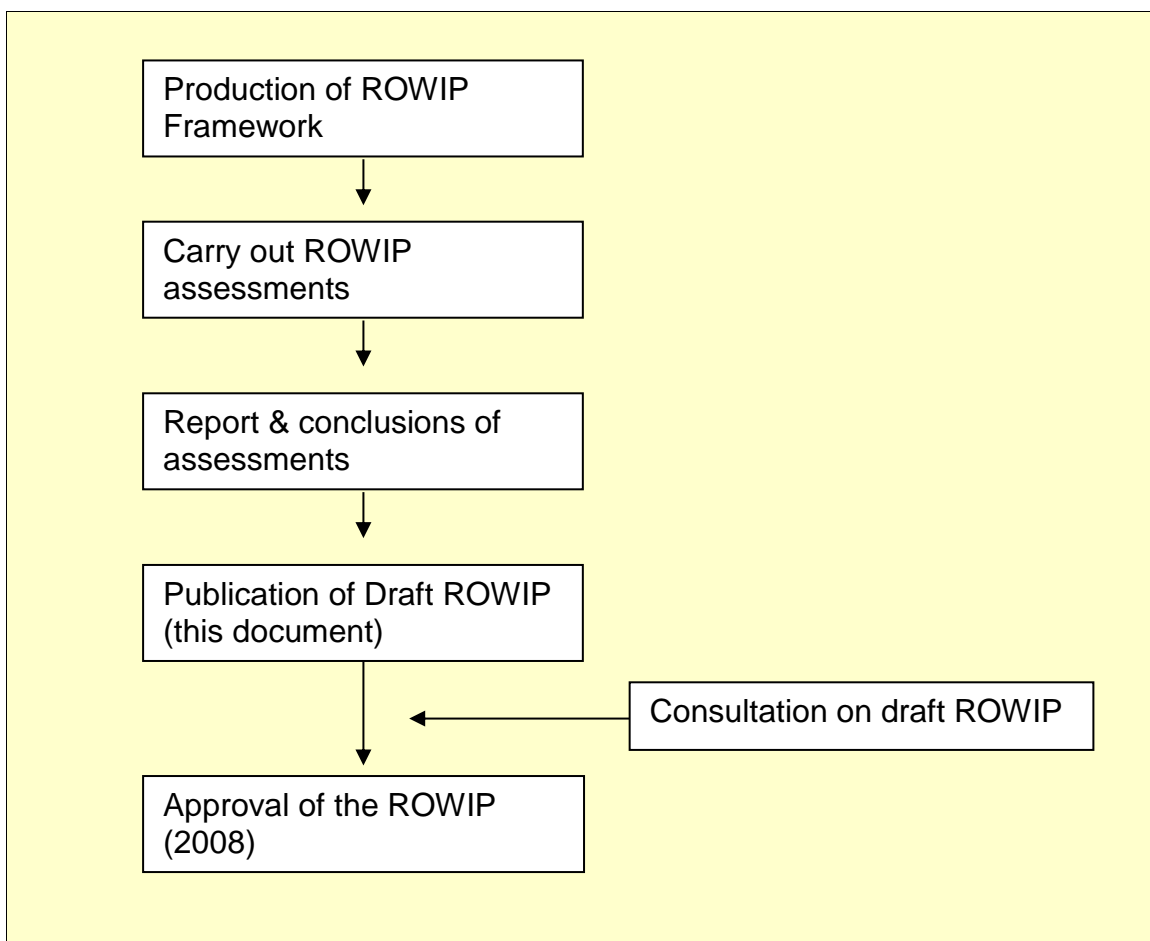
3. The condition of the rights of way network;
4. The management and protection of rights of way;
5. Assessments of user needs; and
6. Publicity and promotion of rights of way and access.

These assessments helped inform the production of the ROWIP: the plan contained a summary of the findings.

The Ceredigion ROWIP was approved in 2008. It performs a number of important roles and 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.

Figure 1: How the ROWIP (2008) was produced



1.2 THE REVIEW OF THE ROWIP

The 2008 ROWIP recognised the need for a mid-term review to allow for the action plan 'roll-forward' for the latter part of the 10 year plan period. By 2012 some of the actions contained in the ROWIP were already out of date, partly because some targets have been met and partly because others now appear unrealistic. The Local Access Forum through its ROWIP sub-committee has been instrumental in carrying out the review of the ROWIP, its terms of reference being:

1. Reviewing progress of the ROWIP paying particular attention to the priorities agreed by the Forum;
2. Making proposals for the updating of the plan; and
3. Considering future funding opportunities and suggesting project proposals for which funding is available.

The following factors and requirements have influenced the way in which the review has been carried out:

- Simplification of the plan (the 2008 ROWIP followed a structure set out in government guidance that resulted in a complex document).
- A more focused action plan combined with a reduction in the number of 'themes'. This will assist in making a clearer case for resource allocations – both from within the Council and through external funding. It also facilitates a consistent approach across a number of Council services (Highways Services have a key role in relation to cycle routes, byways and UCRs and the Forum suggests that Highways have a permanent representation on the Local Access Forum).
- Prioritisation of actions. Given existing resources it will prove difficult to achieve all the proposals contained in the action plan. The prioritisation of actions provides a realistic and flexible approach.
- Providing an opportunity for community involvement in rights of way. The Plan identifies opportunities for the local communities (including organisations, landowners and path users themselves) to contribute to the implementation of the ROWIP (the 'Primary Path Network' also enables public feedback to be considered on an individual route basis).
- Planning for the longer-term. Welsh Government has decided that ROWIPs will not be required to be produced after 2018. Nonetheless, the ROWIP makes a valuable contribution to the Council's planning for rights of way and there is a strong argument for making a long-term commitment to such a plan with regular updating.
- Proposals coming forward from WG. In 2012 Welsh Government consulted on its Active Travel (Wales) White Paper. The White Paper proposed four new duties for local authorities in Wales:
 - To identify and map the network of routes that are safe and appropriate for walking and cycling
 - To identify and map the enhancements that would be required to create a fully integrated network for walking and cycling and develop a prioritised list of schemes to deliver the network
 - To deliver an enhanced network subject to budget availability and following due process

- To consider the potential for enhancing walking and cycling provision in the development of new road schemes.

1.3 POLICY CONTEXT

Rights of way are part of the fabric of our towns, villages and countryside and the planning for the network needs to take account of a number of policy areas:

- Sustainable development
- Planning and environment
- Economic regeneration and tourism
- Transport
- 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. ROWIP Assessment No. 1 ('The Strategic Context for the Management of Rights of Way'³) described the way in which some of these plans and strategies influence the way in which the network is managed.

Welsh Government has introduced measures by which local government and their partners, through Local Service Boards (LSBs), plan, work together and deliver programmes and services. 'Single Integrated Plans' will establish this shared agenda, setting out an overarching long-term vision and the key issues and actions for Ceredigion citizens over the next 3 to 4 years. The Single Integrated Plan replaces the Community Strategy and other strategic plans and strategies. In Ceredigion the Single Integrated Plan is being prepared by Ceredigion Local Service Board⁴. It has three key themes:

- Supporting families
- Economy and place
- Independent living

The Single Integrated Plan (in particular the 'economy and place' component but also the 'supporting families' theme) will provide a strategic context for the management of access whilst the ROWIP itself is a vehicle for delivering plan objectives.

Management of the path network in the period to 2018 will also need to adapt to new plans and strategies: this underlines the importance of keeping the ROWIP under review. For example the Ceredigion Local Development Plan has recently been adopted by the Council whilst the proposals contained in the Active Travel (Wales) White Paper will have some impact on the way in which the network is managed (although these proposals are likely to focus on urban / travel networks).

³ See ROWIP Assessment No. 1 (2007)

⁴ Ceredigion LSB core members are the County Council, Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda Health Board, Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations and Welsh Government.

1.4 A PROFILE OF CEREDIGION

Ceredigion is a predominantly rural county covering an area of 1,795 square kilometres with a population of 75,900 people (2011 Census). 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 2011 there were a total of 2,757,000 tourists to Ceredigion (amounting to 8,785,000 tourist days), with annual tourism expenditure amounting to £298 million. Tourism expenditure directly supports 4,674 full-time equivalent jobs in Ceredigion⁵.

Ceredigion contains the following broad categories of landscape / topography:

- **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, with four sections 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. In the 1970s much of this area was designated (but not confirmed) as a National Park.
- **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. There are two major wetland areas, Cors Caron and Cors Fochno.
- **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 contain 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.

⁵ 'STEAM' Report 2011.

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 archaeological 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 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.

The County includes two 'historic landscapes' (identified in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales⁶). The first of these is Upland 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' 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 more 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 to the rural economy. Spending by walking visitors is estimated to bring over £630 million of expenditure into the Welsh economy creating the equivalent of nearly 12,000 full time jobs many of them centred on rural and coastal areas⁷. Similarly, horse riding and cycling make important contributions to local economies.

Rights of way in Ceredigion (and other routes) provide a key resource for access, recreation, health and well-being and the local economy. Figure 2 provides a number of snapshots covering participation and the various contributions that access can make – in providing employment, in improving our health and to the environment.

⁶ Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS (UK)(International Council on Monuments and Sites) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

⁷ 'The Economic Impact of Walking and Hill Walking in Wales' Welsh Economy Research Unit, Cardiff University (2011)

Figure 2 – The importance of countryside access

Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2011⁸

- Just over a quarter of adults (27%) visited the outdoors 'frequently'.
- Walking was the most frequently undertaken activity over the last 12 months in 2011 (84%)
- Over seven out of ten people cited walking as their most recent activity on their most recent visit to the outdoors (73%). See Appendix 7 for a breakdown of outdoor visits and a comparison of 2008 and 2011 survey results.
- Woodlands and forests were the most frequently visited main destination (18%); followed by local parks (12%); hills, mountain and moorland (11%) and beaches (11%).
- 60% of adults would like to visit the outdoors more often.
- The main barriers cited by those who had not participated in any activity in the last 12 months were physical disability (29%) and other health reasons (27%).

The Economic Impact of Wales Coast Path Visitor Spending on Wales 2012

- The research indicated that 2.89 million people used the Wales Coast Path over the period September 2011 to August 2012.
- During this period the Coast Path attracted 1.6 million day visitors and 835,000 overnight stays.
- It brought an additional £32.2m worth of demand in the Welsh economy which equated to £16.1 million of Gross Value Added in the 12 month period.

The Economic Impact of Walking and Hill Walking in Wales (2011)

- In 2009 there were some 28 million walking related trips to the Welsh countryside and coast.
- Expenditure associated with these walking trips was around £632 million (direct spending).
- After leakages from this direct spending were removed and the indirect impacts calculated, the overall impacts of walking activities in 2009 were estimated at:
 - £532m of additional demand in the Welsh economy;
 - £275m of gross value added
 - Around 11,980 person-years of employment
- Walking and hill walking activities in 2009 accounted for around 16% of the total tourism GVA in Wales.

⁸ Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2011, Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission, Welsh Government. See Appendix 7 for further information.

Horse Riding -

- The National Equine Database records 134,748 horses and ponies in Wales (May 2012).
- The number of horses and ponies registered in Ceredigion is 11,577 (8.6% of the Wales total).
- Information from the British Equestrian Trades Association indicates that the amount spent by horse owners is £3,000 per horse per annum. This equates to around £400 million input into to the Wales economy each year for basic care and keep.
- Riding is an important tourism activity in Wales. An estimated 800,000 riding occasions are taken by visitors in Wales each year with an estimated direct expenditure of £18.55 (Wales Tourist Board, 2003)

Cycling

The 'Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales' (Welsh Assembly Government, 2003) indicated that:

- 38% of households in Wales owned a bicycle (Welsh Transport Statistics 2002)
- The value of cycle tourism to Wales in 2000 was estimated at £103 million. The Strategy predicted that this would rise to £172 million by 2010.

Health and Wellbeing -

- The health benefits of activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding are widely recognised. There is substantial evidence that links activity and the natural environment not only with good physical health but also psychological well-being.
- These activities help reduce the claim on the public purse and improving life quality – the ill-effects of physical inactivity are estimated to cost the National Health Service £1billion annually (2007).
- There is evidence that physical activity can reduce risks of contracting diseases such as cardio-vascular complaints and diabetes.
- The recommended requirement for physical activity required to protect our health is 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate activity per week.
- The average level of inactivity in Wales is amongst the highest in the UK: only 36% of men and 22% of women reach the recommended levels of activity.

Transport

The 'Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales' (Welsh Assembly Government, 2003) indicated that:

- An estimated 26% of all purposeful trips are made wholly by walking. Many other trips rely on significant time spent walking as we catch buses or walk from our cars to the shops, our workplaces or to leisure facilities.
- About 11% of people walk to work in Wales and some 45% of 5-16 year olds walk to school.
- Increasing the levels of walking and cycling in urban areas can help to improve local air quality, as well as reducing emissions that have a global impact.

1.5 RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS PROVISION

Public Rights of Way

The total length of recorded public rights of way in Ceredigion is 2,524 km (1,568 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 restricted byway allows a right of way on foot, on horseback, or leading a horse, cycling and for any vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles (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.

There are also 830km of Unclassified Road Network (UCRs) in Ceredigion, of which approximately 40km (4.8%) are unsurfaced: these are identified as 'ORPAs' on Ordnance Survey maps. These routes provide valuable recreational opportunities and whilst the Council has a clear maintenance liability, public access rights may not be definitively known. .

The way in which UCRs and Byways in upland Ceredigion are managed has been considered by the Cambrian Mountains Exemplar Project (an initiative

involving Ceredigion, Powys, Carmarthenshire County Councils, and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

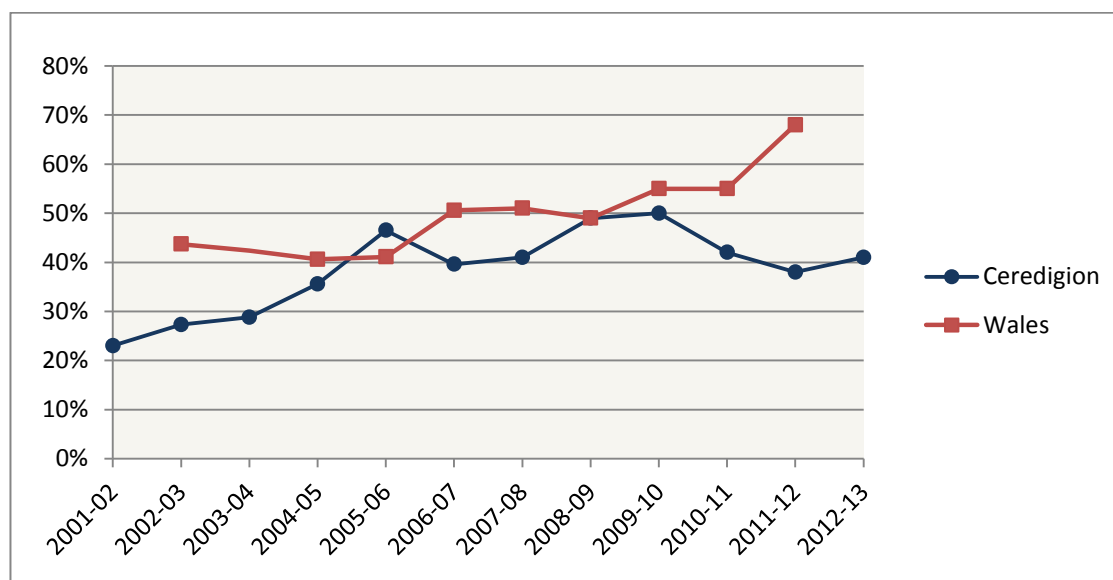
Figure 3 - Rights of Way in Ceredigion⁹

Category	Rights of Way by length		
	Km	Miles	%
Footpath	1,688	1,049	67
Bridleway	549	341	22
Restricted Byway *	274	170	10
BOAT	13	8	1
Totals:	2,524	1,568	100%

* formerly RUPPs.

The condition of rights of way is measured annually. The Performance Indicator (PI) is the percentage of rights of way that are 'open and available'. The PI is assessed through a 5% sample survey: the size of the sample gives rise to a margin of error of +-6% which may help explain the variations in the trend. Results over the period 2001-02 to 2011-12 are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Rights of Way Condition (PI survey results)



Source: Local Government Data Unit

(The Wales figure for 2003-04 is considered by the Wales Audit Office to be unreliable and is therefore not included).

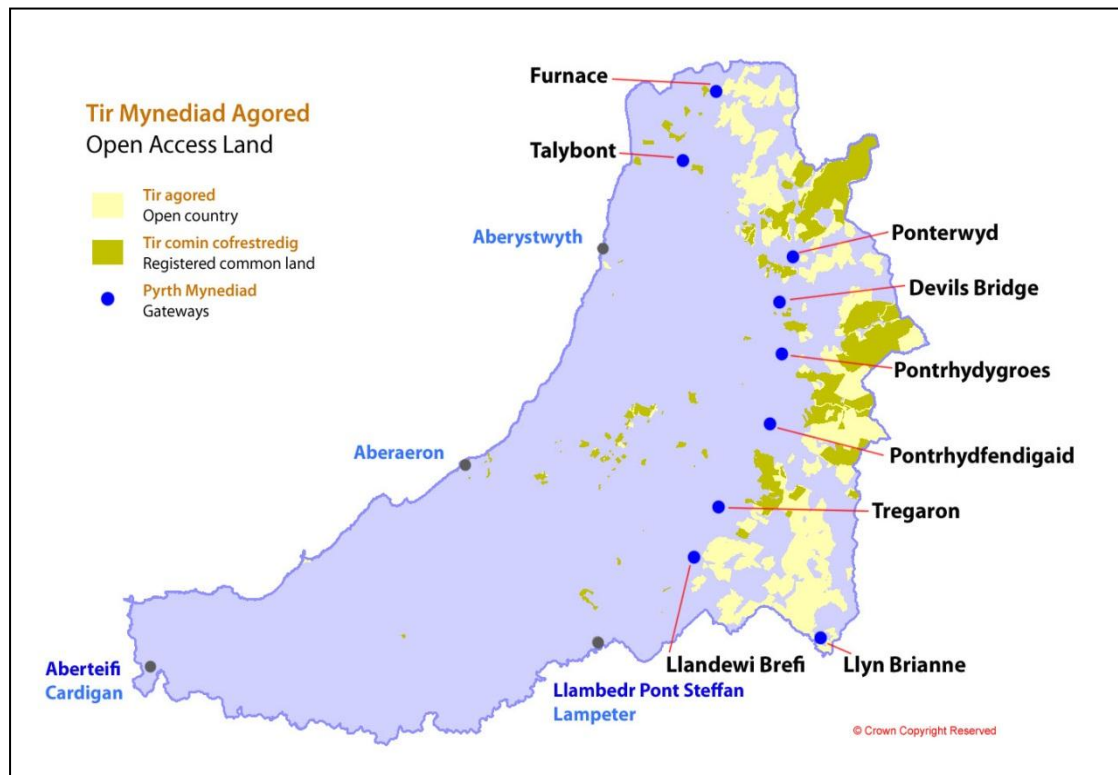
⁹ At January 2013

The development of the Primary Path Network (see Section 2.3 and Appendix 3) also gives an indication of path condition / availability in the County.

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 had 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.

Figure 5 – Open Access in Ceredigion



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. 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 onto 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 is given to the provision of gates / stiles; signposting; information panels and car parking.

NRW is currently carrying out a review of Open Access Land in Wales.

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 NRW offer access opportunities for walkers, horse rides and cyclists: some sites have car parking and other facilities (such as waymarked trails) and guided walks information is also available for some woodlands. The most important recreational sites in Ceredigion are Nant yr Arian and Hafod. The NRW 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'.

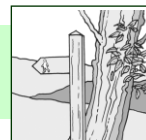
There are seven National Nature Reserves wholly or partly in Ceredigion, managed by NRW and other conservation organisations. These sites provide an opportunity to enjoy their special wildlife interest. Improvements at Cors Caron NNR (Tregaron) carried out several years ago included the development of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

The Council manages Local Nature Reserves in the Aberystwyth area, at Parc Natur Penglais, Pendinas and Traeth Tan y Bwlch and Coed y Cwm, 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 of South and West Wales, the Woodland Trust and others.

Access opportunities have been provided through Tir Gofal permissive access agreements: arrangements for identifying permissive access through the Glastir scheme are currently under consideration.

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 PRODUCING THE ACTION PLAN

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 plan period (to 2018).

The Statement of Action contained within the 2008 Plan has been reviewed and an updated action plan has been produced. The action plan has been simplified and provides a sharper focus for action over the period 2013-2018. These actions continue to meet the aims contained in the 2008 ROWIP.

The Statement of Action contains three inter-related themes for the management and improvement of rights of way and access in Ceredigion. It is further developed into actions, each including an indication of the priority, current performance, target and key partners in delivery. The themes contained within the Statement of Action (Section 3.3) are:

- A. Maintaining the Definitive Map.
- B. General approach to managing and protecting the rights of way network
- C. Areas to be targeted in the management and protection of the rights of way network so as to meet the needs of specific user groups

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.

2.2 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 some instances additional capital and revenue funding will be required to bring the proposals to fruition and to ensure their long-term sustainability. Resources for the implementation of the ROWIP are considered further in section 2.3

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. Partnership working is central to the delivery of the

ROWIP. The importance of support from external organisations and the links between the ROWIP and delivery of other plans and strategies has already been highlighted. The ROWIP is also a vehicle for encouraging community involvement in the management and improvement of the path network.

To assist in the effective management of rights of way, the 2008 ROWIP identified path priorities to guide the allocation of resources. This action has been developed and a '**Primary Path Network**' has since been devised and introduced: it provides a practical mechanism for delivering 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).

The Primary Path Network helps ensure that this part of Ceredigion's path network is well maintained and easy to use. This approach offers a degree of certainty for path users and crucially this information is available on the County Council's web site (GIS)¹⁰.

It is important to note that the primary network will evolve and develop as additional routes become available through path programmes and through the review of path complaints. An annual review process has been established in conjunction with the Local Access Forum (ROWIP sub-committee). This process enables consideration of feedback from members of the public about path issues on routes that are currently uncategorised. Further information about the Primary Path Network is available at Appendix 3.

There are various processes to assess and measure the performance in the delivery of the ROWIP. These will ensure that the plan is responsive to change and that actions retain their relevance. Mechanisms through which the Plan can be kept under review include:

- a. Performance Indicators for rights of way (annual survey)
- b. Performance management through the Council's Business Plan processes (annual plans and quarterly reporting)
- c. Primary Path Network review (annual review)
- d. County Council Scrutiny Committee consideration (Environmental Services and Housing)
- e. Annual review of the Action Plan and three year review of the ROWIP. The Local Access Forum (ROWIP sub-committee) will have a role in this process.

2.3 RIGHTS OF WAY RESOURCES

¹⁰ See: http://map.ceredigion.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=PROW_V1

Current levels of resources for the delivery of the ROWIP – both staff and funding resources - are indicated below. There is also input from the Coast and Countryside Manager.

Figure 6 – County Council Rights of Way and Access Resources ¹¹

a. Definitive Map		Comments
Staff		
Definitive Map & Common Land Officer		Full time post
Definitive Map Assistant		Full time post
Access Assistant		Full time post. Includes duties other than PROW.
Funding		
		Annual Budget
Definitive Map Modification Orders	Costs met by annual Council revenue budget.	£1K
Reclassification of RUPPs	Reclassification programme currently being funded through ROWIP implementation programme (£2.2K in 2011-12)	ROWIP programme in (b) below
Diversions: private applications	Costs met by application fee levied by the Council.	-
Diversions: path projects	Costs met through path programmes e.g. Coastal Access, RDP projects. (£6.8K in 2011-12).	Programmes in (b) below
Path creations	Path creations supported by Coastal Access Improvement Programme. (£2.1K in 2011-12)	Coastal Access programme in (b) below
Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)	Public Rights of Way only. Costs met by application fee levied by the Council.	-

b. Rights of Way Management		Comments
Staff		
Rights of Way and Access Officer		Full time post
Rights of Way and Countryside Rangers (3 Area Rangers – see Appendix 4)		Full time posts
Paths for People Project Officer (RDP)		Grant funded: post supported to November 2013
Ceredigion on Horseback Project Officer (RDP)		Grant funded: post supported to March 2014
Coastal Access Project Officer		Grant funded: post supported to March 2013. WG have announced a new Coastal Access grant programme for the period 2013-4 to 2014-15 (see below).

¹¹ Figures provided are for either 2011-12 or 2012-13.

Funding		Budget
Ceredigion County Council - annual Path maintenance programme (annual revenue budget)	<p>The annual maintenance programme covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area Ranger work programmes ▪ Brushcutting ▪ Path signposting ▪ Volunteer path works* ▪ Community council path maintenance. <p><i>* Note: The volunteer path work programme was supported by CCW grant (£9.5K in 2012-13).</i></p>	£112K
Ceredigion County Council – capital works	<p>Capital allocation for path projects 2012-13.</p> <p>This figure excludes capital inputs in support of relevant projects as below.</p>	£17K
ROWIP Implementation Programme	<p>Welsh Government grant 2012-13 (ROWIP implementation grant for 2013-14 is £51K).</p>	£79K
Coastal Access Improvement Programme	<p>Supported by the EU and WG. The current programme runs to March 2013.</p> <p>The budget figure shown was for 2012-13 and included Project Officer costs. WG have announced a new Coastal Access grant programme for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15. The County Council is pursuing additional coastal access improvements through this new programme.</p>	£206.7K
'Paths for People'	<p>Community routes improvements supported by RDP. Programme covers period to November 2013.</p> <p>The budget figure shown was for 2012-13 and includes Project Officer costs.</p>	£65.2K
'Ceredigion on Horseback'	<p>Equestrian route improvements supported by RDP. The programme initially covered the period to November 2013: it has since been extended into 2014-15.</p> <p>The budget figure shown was for 2012-13 and includes Project Officer costs.</p>	£78.8K
Dyfi Biosphere	<p>Supported by the EU. Programme runs to December 2013.</p> <p>Expenditure in 2012-13 is as shown.</p>	£15.4

The availability of resources is of course key to the delivery of the ROWIP. The Council's resources and funding (both capital and revenue funding) will dictate the extent to which ROWIP actions can be implemented. The availability of

external funding will also have a significant impact on the implementation of the ROWIP.

The 2008 ROWIP drew attention to the investment that was required in improving and maintaining Rights of Way in Ceredigion, drawing on a report into path condition in Wales, produced in 2002¹² (and referred to in the Ceredigion ROWIP Assessment No. 3 ('The Condition of the Public Rights of Way Network', 2007). The level of resources suggested by the report remains significantly more than is currently available and this has an impact on the rate of improvement that can be achieved in Ceredigion.

Notwithstanding this assessment, it is clear that future budgets will be subject to pressure and it is difficult to predict with any certainty the impact of these pressures on the level of resources that will be available for rights of way management over the remainder of the plan period.

At the same time it is clear the rights of way network brings real benefits to Ceredigion – its importance for tourism, recreation, and health and well-being has already been referred to. The ROWIP plays a central role in seeking to realise the potential of rights of way and access. Our public paths are an asset which, properly resourced and managed effectively, will generate valuable returns on the investment made.

The ROWIP not only provides a framework for ensuring that available resources are effectively targeted but as importantly highlights the way that additional funding (for example through grant programmes) can lead to further and sustained improvement to rights of way in Ceredigion. Identification in this ROWIP of significant needs will provide a basis for grant applications in future.

2.4 THE ROWIP ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is built around the following themes:

- 1. Maintaining the Definitive Map.**
- 2. General approach to managing and protecting the rights of way network**
- 3. Areas to be targeted in the management and protection of the rights of way network so as to meet the needs of specific user groups**

ROWIP actions are set out in tabular form on pages 25 to 39. Actions have been developed in a way that demonstrates resource requirements (using a 'Red / Amber / Green' system to demonstrate the ability to deliver actions). Some actions are interrelated and the implementation of actions may in some cases be linked (for example Coast Path development and path creation / diversion).

¹² 'Rights of Way Condition Survey 2002' CCW

An explanation of the information contained in each ROWIP action is given in Figure 7:

Figure 7 – Ceredigion ROWIP: Action Plan table content

ROWIP action	e.g. Action 1.1
Priority	Four levels of priority: A* / A / B / C. (A* being the highest priority; C the lowest)
Resources	Provides an indication of the resources for the delivery of actions, based on the R/A/G ‘traffic light’ system:
	R Resources not currently available. Additional funding would be required to deliver this action.
	A Resources available although subject to constraints / limitations (e.g. time-limited grant programmes).
	G Resources currently available. A reduction in funding would require status to be reassessed.
Comments	Background about the action
Current performance	Description / indication of performance in delivering action
Target	The target and / or timescale to be achieved.
Review	Progress to be reviewed annually by the LAF (ROWIP sub-committee).
Delivery Partners	Those organisations that can help in the delivery of actions.

THEME 1 - MAINTAINING THE DEFINITIVE MAP

Action 1.1	Determine Modification Orders within set timescales
Priority	A* Priority reflects the need to ensure that the Definitive Map provides an effective record of public rights
Resources	G
Comments	In addition to new applications there are a number of 'older' applications that are being concluded.
Current performance	Applications for the modification of the Definitive Map are currently running at approximately 2 applications per year. Two applications were determined in 2012-13.
Target	75% of applications to be determined or ready for referral within 12 months from receipt of valid application based on current application rates.
Review	Progress to be reported to the LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Planning Inspectorate

Action 1.2	Create new rights of way where a new path (or higher rights on existing paths) would be in the public interest
Priority	A Priority level based on the need to ensure that the path network fulfils its potential for recreation, health and tourism. The development and safeguarding of the Coast Path is of particular importance
Resources	G Coastal Access Improvement Programme funding
Comments	Appropriate circumstance justifying path creations could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to replace a route lost through natural erosion; ○ enhancing access to or along a national route, strategic route, attraction or viewpoint; ○ development of the strategic recreational route network; ○ providing links or improved access to Access Land ○ in the interests of road safety; or ○ extending the types of user that are able to use a public path. Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	A large number of paths were created in the development of the Coast Path (approximately 14 miles) and this process is continuing under the Coastal Access Programme.
Target	Path creation activity in the latter part of the plan period is

	likely to focus on the creation of new routes where existing paths have been lost or are at risk of being lost to coastal erosion.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Landowners, funding partners

Action 1.3	Support applications for the diversion of rights of way where the line of the amended route would be in the public interest
Priority	B Priority level reflects the need to ensure that the rights of way network is responsive to public needs
Resources	A Diversions funded by path improvement projects. Fee paying applications submitted by landowners.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A large number of path diversions have been promoted by the County Council in the first part of the plan period through path improvement projects, notably the Coastal Access, RDP and ROWIP projects (in total amounting to approximately 20 per year). This approach is dependent on the availability of path project funding: diversions will not generally be considered unless supported through grant programmes. ▪ Applications submitted by landowners, for which an application fee is payable, are at a level of approximately 4 per annum ▪ Provided that the legal tests are met, appropriate circumstances for path diversions can include: <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)
Current performance	A total of 23 Diversion Orders were made in 2011-12. 57% of these Orders were made within 6 months of the date of application.
Target	Target of 75% of Diversion Orders to be made within 6 months from receipt of valid application.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Landowners, funding partners

Action 1.4	Prioritise and resolve outstanding Orders for the reclassification of RUPPs
Priority	B Priority level reflects the need to ensure that the Definitive Map provides an effective record of public rights and facilitates effective path management
Resources	A Funded through ROWIP implementation programme
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reclassification resolved either through the confirmation of Orders or their referral to the Planning Inspectorate. ▪ A report has been produced which identified reclassification priorities and this is currently being acted upon, supported by ROWIP Implementation funding. Requires a long-term programme of action and associated funding having regard to the large number of Orders requiring reclassification (210 outstanding orders as at January 2013). ▪ The RUPP report notes that if funding was available for a dedicated full time officer it would take some 5 years to resolve the outstanding reclassification orders.
Current performance	A total of 21 RUPPs were reclassified in 2011-12.
Target	Reclassification of 20 RUPPs proposed annually.
Review	Progress to be reported to the LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	WG, Planning Inspectorate

Action 1.5	Assess Public Rights of Way (status and location) in order to correctly record them on the Definitive Map
Priority	C Priority level recognises the constraints of identifying resources for undertaking a pro-active programme
Resources	R
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The value of such an exercise is recognised as it would provide a basis for a comprehensive review of Definitive Map anomalies. However, in practice this process will be undertaken gradually through the Council determining applications for the modification of the Definitive Map. ▪ The CROW Act proposed to close the Definitive Map and Statement to the addition of rights of way that were legally in existence before 1949 in 2026, although this has not yet been enacted. In order to research the historical documentary evidence for unrecorded rights of way the Countryside Agency put in place a scheme in England called the 'Discovering Lost Ways' project (there was no similar scheme for Wales). This scheme was abandoned and Defra proposed instead that a 'stakeholder group' be formed to recommend changes to

	the existing legislation.
Current performance	No pro-active programme is currently in place.
Target	N/A
Review	Progress to be reported to the LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	WG, Planning Inspectorate, community councils, user groups, landowners

THEME 2 – GENERAL APPROACH TO MANAGING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

Action 2.1	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are easy to use and signed to 60% by 2016.
Priority	A* Priority level reflects the importance of achieving a well-maintained rights of way network.
Resources	A Grant programmes for path improvements
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because of the size of the sample the results are subject to a margin of error of +-6% and the results must be treated with some caution. ▪ External grant funding for path projects will be required to deliver this improvement. ▪ Action 2.2 ('Primary Path Network') also provides a measure of path condition in Ceredigion. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Performance Indicator for rights of way condition is measured by an annual 5% sample survey of public paths. Results in Ceredigion are shown in Figure 4.
Target	60% by 2016.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, community councils, volunteers, landowners

Action 2.2	Operation of a path management framework - the 'Primary Path Network' (PPN) - to guide the allocation of resources for path management.
Priority	A* Priority level reflects the essential requirement for an effective framework for path management

Resources	G
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PPN guides the allocation of resources for path management and a mechanism for dealing with path complaints. ▪ The development of the PPN is a recent innovation and it is not yet clear if existing resources for path maintenance are sufficient to maintain the current condition of the network. ▪ Information about the Primary Path Network is available on the County Council's website (GIS).
Current performance	The development of a Primary Path Network (PPN) was included as an action in the 2008 ROWIP and is now being implemented
Target	N/A
Review	Complaints in respect of paths not included in the PPN will be kept under review: an annual review is undertaken in conjunction with the LAF.
Delivery partners	LAF

Action 2.3	Improve, sign and maintain a network of community routes
Priority	A* Priority level reflects the importance of local path networks for recreation, health and sustainable travel.
Resources	A Existing budgets and grant programmes
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circular walks and rides around settlements provide access opportunities for both local people and visitors and help deliver key policies objectives ▪ The identification of Urban and Rural Service Centres in the Local Development Plan provides a strategic framework for future network development. Further investigation is required into development of community routes based around LDP settlement patterns, opportunities at settlements and to develop annual targets. ▪ Local path networks will provide an essential building block in delivering the WG agenda as contained in the 'Active Travel' proposals. ▪ Further investigation is required to identify key routes. They are likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe routes in the community ○ Links to the workplace and shops ○ Links to community facilities ○ Links to local features / attractions <p>On-going external funding will be required to maintain momentum in delivering this action.</p>
Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community routes are currently being developed /

performance	<p>improved through the County Council's 'Paths for People' project (RDP funded).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community routes in Aberystwyth have been improved as part of the Aberystwyth Sustainable Travel Centre initiative. Paths also improved and maintained through Rangers' rights of way work programmes.
Target	N/A
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, community councils, user groups, volunteers, landowners

Action 2.4	Improve, sign and maintain a network of strategic recreational routes.
Priority	<p>A*</p> <p>Priority level reflects the importance of recreational routes in delivering tourism and health benefits.</p>
Resources	<p>A Existing budgets and grant programmes</p>
Comments	Routes developed and promoted by the County Council are listed in Appendix 6.
Current performance	Recreation routes for horse riders are currently being developed / improved through the County Council's 'Paths for People' and 'Ceredigion on Horseback' projects (RDP funded).
Target	Ensure that the standard and range of recreational routes continues to be maintained and improved.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, community councils, user groups, volunteers, Ceredigion Bridleways Group, landowners

Action 2.5	Develop and manage the Coast Path
Priority	<p>A*</p> <p>Priority level reflects the importance of the Coast Path as a 'flagship project' delivering tourism and health benefits.</p>
Resources	<p>A Coastal Access Improvement programme funding</p>
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ceredigion Coast Path, supported under the Objective 1 programme, was opened in July 2008. Additional path development has been supported under the Coastal Access Improvement Programme (supported by the EU and WG) as part of the development of the Wales Coast Path (opened in May 2012). NRW have produced guidance on Wales Coast Path Quality Standards as a means ensuring a consistent approach to management across Wales. Welsh Government has made available additional funding to extend the Coastal Access Improvement

	<p>Programme for 2013-14 and 2014-15 (covering enhancement, realignment and maintenance to WCP Quality Standards).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Longer-term funding arrangements will require consideration. ▪ The designation of the Coast Path as a Long Distance Route may be considered by WG. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Coast Path in Ceredigion is substantially complete: a section near Gwbert requires resolution and the necessary work. ▪ Coast Path improvements being undertaken under the Coastal Access Improvement Programme.
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and improve the Coast Path to WCP Quality Standards.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, NRW, landowners

Action 2.6	Provide information on countryside access opportunities in Ceredigion
Priority	<p>A*</p> <p>The priority level recognises the value of countryside access information for local residents and visitors</p>
Resources	G
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Path promotion activity is generally linked to path improvement programmes: this ensures that path conditions meet user expectations. ▪ The recent reorganisation of Council services (April 2013) presents an opportunity to review rights of way and access promotion.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The County Council has produced an excellent range of path leaflets / guides, including a Coast Path guidebook. ▪ Information on the Council's web sites (Coast and Countryside and Tourism) includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information about public rights of way (including the Primary Path Network) ○ Walks and rides leaflets ○ 'Web walks' ○ Ceredigion Coast Path information ○ Cycle route information.
Target	Maintain at least the existing level of leaflet and website information and provide information on rights of way and the PPN through GIS (see also 2.2 above).
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.

Delivery partners	WG, NRW
-------------------	---------

Action 2.7	Increase the proportion of rights of way that are included in annual brush-cutting programmes to cover urban paths and Category 1 paths by 2016
Priority	A Priority level reflects the importance of achieving a well-maintained rights of way network. There are 238 km of Category 1 paths; the length of urban paths that require to be included in brushcutting programmes needs to be assessed.
Resources	A
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The brushcutting programme accounts for a significant proportion of the annual rights of way revenue budget. ▪ The current budget provides for brushcutting on 9.5% of the path network: an increase in this proportion would have resource implications. ▪ The brushcutting programme should be aligned with the requirements of the Primary Path Network.
Current performance	The proportion of paths included in the brushcutting programme in 2007-08 was 5.4% (134 km), rising to 9.5% (236 km) in 2011-12.
Target	All urban paths and Category 1 paths by 2016 (as required)
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	N/A

Action 2.8	Develop IT systems to assist in path management
Priority	A The priority level recognises the important contribution that IT systems can bring to path management and administration
Resources	G
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAMS is a management system designed to simplify the task of managing data on Rights of Way. It can handle condition survey data, path infrastructure, surface details, maintenance, complaints, contract management and legal events. It is also assists in the production of statistics and for reporting outputs on funding programmes. ▪ It is designed to conform to Public Rights of Way standard BS7666.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAMS (Countryside Access Management System) is currently used by the Council in some Definitive Map activities. ▪ The Council is exploring the further use of CAMs for rights of way management tasks and integration with other Council systems (e.g. Planweb)

Target	Introduction of CAMs for rights of way data management by 2013-14.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Exegesis, CCC (IT)

Action 2.9	Secure access improvements through agri-environment programmes
Priority	B Agri-environment programmes require obstructions to rights of way to be removed; they can also provide for permissive paths. The priority level reflects both these considerations
Resources	A
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permissive Access provided through agri-environmental schemes offers an additional countryside resource. ▪ WG have asked Local Access Forums in Wales for suggestions for permissive access that could be introduced under the Glastir scheme. ▪ Permissive Access priorities are currently being considered by the LAF (2013).
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of permissive routes are currently available through the Tir Gofal scheme. These will be reconsidered under the Glastir scheme as appropriate. ▪ The LAF has been assessing Tir Gofal permissive access opportunities / criteria. ▪ The requirement of agri-environment programmes that obstructions to rights of way are removed could offer very significant benefits but has not worked well so far in Ceredigion. Needs further exploration.
Target	Subject to clarification on WG processes and the level of Glastir applications.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	WG, landowners, LAF

THEME 3 – AREAS TO BE TARGETED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK SO AS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC USER GROUPS

Action 3.1	To provide access for all in Ceredigion, including those with visual impairment and mobility problems
Priority	A Priority level reflects the importance and benefits of 'access for all'.
Resources	A Existing budgets and grant programmes.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply 'Least Restrictive Access' principles to path management.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, develop, maintain and publicise easy access routes for those with visual impairment and mobility problems. Best practice guidance is available in devising access improvements. Provide information about access opportunities for users with visual impairment and mobility problems (linked to associated transport provision).
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Least Restrictive Access Principles applied to path management. All-access trail developed at Aberporth (Coast Path). Where possible, stiles removed along the Coast Path.
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply Least Restrictive Access Principles. Disabled access improvements to be carried out at Newbridge, near Cenarth 2012-13.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	NRW

Action 3.2	Improve, maintain and develop multi-user routes across Ceredigion
Priority	A Priority level reflects the importance of multi-use routes in delivering tourism, sustainable travel and health and well-being benefits.
Resources	A Existing budgets and grant programmes.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridleways, Restricted Byways, Byways and 'green lanes' provide, to varying degrees, multi-use routes. Multi-use routes can offer a building block in delivering the WG agenda as contained in the 'Active Travel' proposals. Consideration of multi-use networks will need to take account of potential conflicts between different users as well as environmental factors. The improvement of opportunities for carriage horse driving requires further investigation. Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Ceredigion on Horseback' project is currently developing a number of equestrian routes that can also be used by walkers and cyclists. The Ystwyth Trail also includes sections that can be used by horse riders.
Target	10 routes developed and publicised through the 'Ceredigion on Horseback' project.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	CCC (highways); WG; NRW; EU, landowners, BHS,

	Ceredigion Bridleways Group, Treadlightly, Sustrans.
--	--

Action 3.3	Improve and maintain the network of cycle-ways and cycle routes
Priority	A Priority level reflects the importance of cycling in delivering tourism, sustainable travel and health benefits.
Resources	A Existing budgets and grant programmes.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cycle ways and trails will be a key component in delivering the WG agenda as contained in the 'Active Travel' proposals ▪ Cycle trails also provide multi-user routes. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing cycle trails in Ceredigion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ystwyth Trail ○ Aberaeron – Llanerchaeron ○ The Rheidol cycleway ○ Cardi Bach Trail (Ceredigion section) ▪ Existing cycle routes include a section of Lon Las Cymru in eastern Ceredigion (NR8); Lon Teifi (NR82); and routes from 'cycle hubs' at Cardigan, New Quay / Aberaeron and Lampeter / Tregaron. ▪ The section of the 'Cardi Bach' cycle route in Ceredigion is complete: Pembrokeshire County Council is seeking to extend the Trail.
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposals to enhance cycling opportunities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ystwyth Trail extension ○ Identify other routes in the County and support the TraCC Walking and Cycling prioritised programme for investment
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	CCC (highways); WG, TraCC, EU; Sustrans; Pembrokeshire County Council, landowners

Action 3.4	Develop a framework for the management of routes available for motorised recreational vehicles through the identification of routes and the development of effective management arrangements.
Priority	A Priority level reflects the need to develop coordinated approaches to the management of motorised recreational vehicles.
Resources	A Existing budgets and grant programmes.

Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Cambrian Mountains Exemplar Project (Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire County Councils; NRW) have developed proposals for the management of routes for motorised recreational vehicles. Key elements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop good practice for the management of recreational vehicles ○ Develop good practice for working with a diverse range of stakeholders ○ Disseminate information and guidance ○ Identify legal routes ▪ The Cambrian Mountains Exemplar Project Phase 2 report offers a proposed framework for future actions. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	Consultant's report (Phase 2) completed in 2012. To be considered by partners and stakeholders.
Target	Devise and implement a detailed programme of actions based on the recommendations contained in the Phase 2 report.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	CCC (highways), WG, NRW, Powys CC, Carmarthenshire CC, Dyfed Powys Police, stakeholders, Treadlightly, user groups, landowners

Action 3.5	To improve and maintain access to and within countryside sites, inland waters and other features of interest in Ceredigion
Priority	A Priority reflects the value of countryside access sites for recreation, health and tourism.
Resources	A Grant programmes.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinated action to develop and promote access links to and between countryside sites / features enhances the enjoyment of the Ceredigion countryside. ▪ There are a large number of countryside sites in Ceredigion managed by a range of organisations offering recreation opportunities. The County Council manages three Local Nature Reserves and a number of wildlife sites. ▪ The Local Access Forum is investigating the policies and programmes of organisations that manage countryside sites. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more

	information.
Current performance	The Council has improved and promoted links between its Local Nature Reserves at Penglais and Coed y Cwm ('Two Woods Walk') and in partnership with Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales produced the Cors lan (near Ty'n y Graig) guided walks leaflet.
Target	The Council is producing a leaflet featuring rights of way linking wildlife sites in Aberystwyth in 2012-13.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, countryside site owners / managers (e.g. NRW National Trust, Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, etc.), Teifi Rivers Trust, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, LAF.

Action 3.6	To support the use of 'green transport' for countryside access
Priority	A Priority level reflects the importance of sustainable travel as a component of countryside access
Resources	A The Cardi Bach coastal bus is funded by the RDP
Comments	The Cardi Bach coastal bus, introduced in 2004 as part of the Ceredigion Coast Path project, provides a sustainable transport option for path users and local communities.
Current performance	The Cardi Bach is currently funded through the RDP as a community transport initiative.
Target	Secure the operation of the Cardi Bach as a permanent all-year service.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	EU, TraCC, NRW, CAVO

Action 3.7	Enhance opportunities for access in the coastal zone
Priority	B Priority level reflects the importance of coastal access in delivering tourism and health benefits.
Resources	A Coastal Access Improvement Programme funding
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of access opportunities likely to be supported under a further stage of the Wales Coastal Access Programme. ▪ Projects could include the development of link paths, circular routes, access for the less-able and, where appropriate, routes for cyclists and horse riders
Current performance	A number of circular walks in the coastal zone have been developed and promoted (available on the Council's web site),
Target	Subject to future Coastal Access funding arrangements.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.

Delivery partners	WG, EU,NRW, National Trust, RA and other volunteers, landowners
-------------------	---

Action 3.8	To develop 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 Trail)
Priority	B Priority level reflects the importance of recreational routes in delivering tourism and health benefits
Resources	R
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a walks guide that promotes a route along the Teifi Valley. ▪ Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.
Current performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposals for a Teifi Trail were consulted on some years ago. EU grant options was considered but funding not available at the time. The proposals have since been raised with TraCC. ▪ The development of the Cylch Ceredigion scheme would, in part, be dependent on the implementation of the Teifi Trail proposal.
Target	Subject to external funding programmes.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	Funding partners, TraCC, NRW,, Carmarthenshire County Council, Teifi Rivers Trust, Ramblers Association and other volunteers, landowners

Action 3.9	To improve and maintain access to ‘Access Land’
Priority	C Open Access land offers a valuable recreational resource: the priority level is a reflection of the low level of management issues that arise in Ceredigion
Resources	R
Comments	Appropriate action could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving access to Access Land from ‘gateways’. Gateway locations are - Furnace, Talybont,

	<p>Ponterwyd, Devils Bridge, Pontrhydygroes, Pontrhydfendigaid, Tregaron, Llanddewi Brefi and Llyn Brianne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve the accessibility of access land through the provision of gates and stiles and signage where appropriate (in accordance with guidelines produced by the County Council in 2008). ○ To create path links to Access Land where none currently exist. (Access Land 'Islands'). ○ Improve access opportunities on Common Land as a component of sustainable management measures. <p>Projects arising from this action may have an adverse impact on European Sites, particularly indirectly through disturbance and/or erosion. See Appendix 8 for more information.</p>
Current performance	No specific programmes to enhance access to Access Land currently in place.
Target	To deal with problems on a case by case basis in response to complaints.
Review	Progress to be reported to LAF on an annual basis.
Delivery partners	NRW, landowners, common land right-holders, farming unions, community councils, volunteers

APPENDICES



- Appendix 1 **Glossary**
- Appendix 2 **Rights of way responsibilities**
- Appendix 3 **Primary Path Network - Ceredigion**
- Appendix 4 **Path management areas in Ceredigion**
- Appendix 5 **Countryside sites in Ceredigion**
- Appendix 6 **Access promotion and publicity - Ceredigion County Council**
- Appendix 7 **Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2011**
- Appendix 8 **The Habitats Directive**

GLOSSARY

BHS	British Horse Society
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 (IT)	Ceredigion County Council – IT services
CCC (highways)	Ceredigion County Council – highways
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales (now part of Natural Resources Wales)
CROW Act 2000	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
DD Act 1995	Disability Discrimination Act 1995
EA	Environment Agency (now part of Natural Resources Wales)
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission (now part of Natural Resources Wales)
GIS	Geographical Information System
H Act 1980	Highways Act 1980
LAF	Local Access Forum
LDP	Local Development Plan
LLC Act 1975	Local Land Charges Act 1975
LSB	Local Service Board
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP&AC Act 1949	National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949
NRW	Natural Resources Wales (this newly-created body includes 3 former organisations - Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission in Wales and Environment Agency Wales. Generally, NRW is used in this document of cover any or all of these organisations).
PI	Performance Indicator
PPN	Primary Path Network
RA	Ramblers' Association
RB	Restricted Byway
RDP	Rural Development Plan
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
TraCC	Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru (transport consortium for the Mid Wales region)
W&C Act 1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WG	Welsh Government

RIGHTS OF WAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Function	Legislation	Details
Definitive Map		
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 of 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 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 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.
Open Access Land		
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.

PRIMARY PATH NETWORK

Resources need to be used effectively and the categorisation of the various types of route helps to ensure the best use of resources. The Plan provides a framework for identifying a primary network of routes to guide the allocation of resources¹³. Primary Path Network categories are as follows:

Category 1:

- Strategic Linear Routes - Coast Path; Aberaeron to Lampeter and Borth to Pontrhyfendigaid routes

Category 2:

- Paths identified by the Area Rangers, RDP project officers and the Rights of Way Officer of all other routes known to be currently open and available e.g. community routes and other promoted routes
- Paths on the annual brush cutting contract
- Path that are 'open and available' based on Performance Indicator survey (5% sample)
- Paths promoted by the County Council.

Routes which have not been identified as part of this process have not been categorised at the present time.

Under this approach **54.2%** of Public Rights of Way in Ceredigion fell into either Category 1 or 2 in 2012 (this equates to some 1,368 km out of a total of 2,524 km). This represented an increase of the figure for 2011 (46%).

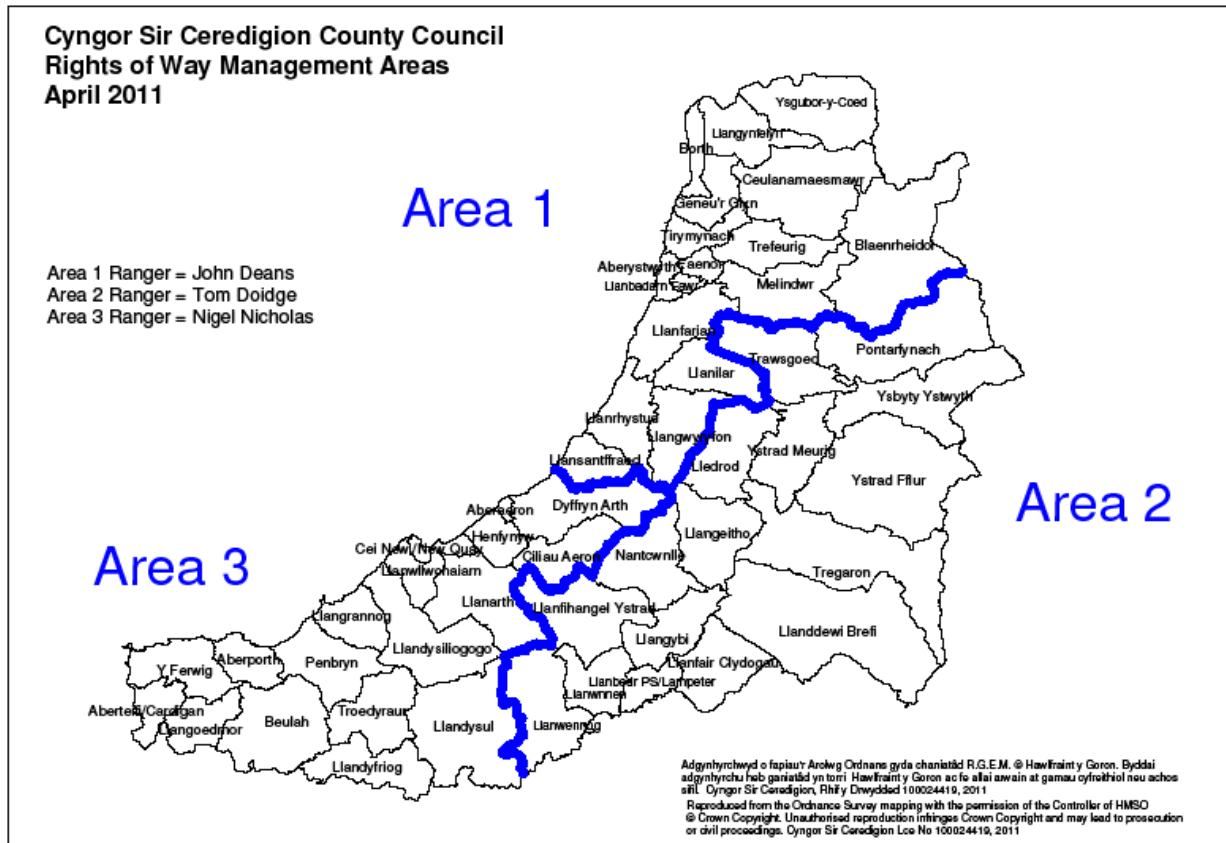
Primary Path Network – position at April 2012:

CATEGORY	STATUS				% of all PROW
	F/P	B/W	R/BY	BOAT	
Cat 1	9.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	10.6%
Cat 2	23.7%	13.3%	6.5%	0.1%	43.6%
Unclassified					45.9%
Total - Cat 1 & 2	33.3%	13.7%	6.9%	0.3%	54.2%

An annual review process has been established by the County Council and the LAF. This enables consideration of path issues identified by members of the public on 'Category 0' paths and a decision made on a future course of action. Action can include the re-categorisation of a path to a higher category.

¹³ Action B.06 in the 2008 ROWIP

PATH MANAGEMENT AREAS IN CEREDIGION



COUNTRYSIDE SITES IN CEREDIGION

Ceredigion County Council

Parc Natur Penglais (LNR), Aberystwyth
Pendinas and Traeth Tan y Bwlch LNR, Aberystwyth
Coed y Cwm, 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 Reserves¹⁴

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

Natural Resources Wales

Nant yr Arian
Artists Valley
Ystrad Einion
Ty'n Bedw
Black Covert Wood, Trawscoed
Gogerddan
The Arch
Hafod¹⁵
Pwll Peiran
Pantfedwen

National Trust

Llanerchaeron
Bird's Rock, New Quay
Penbryn

¹⁴ Access is limited at certain sites.

¹⁵ Managed in partnership with the Hafod Trust

Mwnt

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran (Pembrokeshire & Ceredigion)
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
Rhos Marion

(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

ACCESS PROMOTION & PUBLICITY - CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Route / Location	Users	Leaflet / booklet	Website
Coast and Countryside Section:			
Coastal Access			
Ceredigion Coast Path		✓	✓
Coast & Countryside Walks & Rides			
Aberaeron - Lampeter		✓	✓
Aberporth		✓	✓
Borth - Devil's Bridge		✓	✓
Aberaeron		✓	✓
Aberystwyth (Constitution Hill)		✓	✓
Abersytwyth – Pendinas and Rheidol Circular		✓	✓
Aberystwyth – Two Woods Walk		✓	✓
Cors Ian, Lledrod		✓	✓
Lampeter (Allt Goch)	  	✓	✓
Llannon - Llanrhystud		✓	
Newquay - Cwmttydu		✓	✓
Rhydlewys	  	✓	✓
Trefeurig	  	✓	✓
Tresaith - Aberporth		✓	✓
Bridleway Routes - Rheidol & Ystwyth Valleys			
1. Rheidol Valley	  		✓
2. Llanilar	 		✓
3. The Arch to Trasgoed	  		✓
4. Trawsgoed to Ysbyty Ystwyth	  		✓
Community Routes			
Cross Inn			✓
Henllan			✓
Llanrhystyd			✓

Lledrod			✓
Mwnt			✓
Penbryn			✓
Pennant			✓
Pontgarreg			✓
Pontrhydfendigaid			✓
Sarnau			✓
Talgarreg (1 & 2)			✓
Talgarreg – Mydroilyn			✓
Tanygroes			✓
Tre'r Taliesin – Tre'r ddol - Talybont			✓
Other County Council:			
'Spirit of the Miners'			
<u>Linear routes:</u> Borth – Devils Bridge Devil's Bridge - Pontrhydfendigaid			✓
<u>Circular routes:</u> Talybont / Cwmsymlog / Bontgoch / Nant yr Arian / Devil's Bridge			✓
'Walking the Teifi Estuary'			
Llechryd to Penparc (No. 4)		✓	✓
Cardigan to Mwnt (No. 5)		✓	✓
Cycleways & Trails			
Aberaeron - Llanerchaeron	 		✓
Ystwyth Trail	  		✓
Rheidol Cycleway	 	✓	
Cardi Bach Trail	 		
Cycle routes ('Cycle Hubs')			
Aberaeron / Newquay			✓
Cardigan			✓
Lampeter / Tregaron			✓

Note: The table is provided for general guidance only. For further details of routes and path status, please visit the 'Exploring Ceredigion' page of the Coast and Countryside routes at:

www.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7361

Information is also available on the Ceredigion tourism web site:

www.discoverceredigion.co.uk

WELSH OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY 2011

**All activities undertaken: most recent visit to the outdoors
2008 and 2011 comparisons**

	Year	
	2008 (%)	2011 (%)
Walking	72	73
Wildlife watching	11	17
Visiting children's playgrounds	11	15
Sightseeing / visiting an attraction	10	13
Running	6	9
Informal games	5	8
Picnicking	4	7
Road cycling	3	4
Off-road cycling / mountain biking	3	4
Horse riding	2	3
Any watersports	1	3
Fishing	2	2
Fieldsports	1	2
Swimming outdoors	1	2
Off-road driving / motorcycling	2	2
Rock climbing / caving	<0.5	1

Source: Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2011 (CCW; Forestry Commission; Welsh Government)

The Habitats Directive

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. This carried out through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites comprising Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

A process of screening has been carried out to determine whether the plan alone, or in-combination, is likely to have a significant impact on a European Site. For the purposes of the assessment, contiguous with land use planning assessments, Ramsar Sites (sites designated under Article 2 of the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (especially as waterfowl habitat) (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971) have been considered as part of the HRA screening report.

Those ROWIP actions which might have an effect on European Protected Sites or where further assessment may be required are highlighted in the ROWIP Action Plan (section 2.4) under each action.

Projects which fall under these identified actions may require a further Habitats Regulations Screening assessment to determine whether they are likely to have a significant impact on European Sites, alone or in-combination.

