

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

(2007-2017)

ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONSULTATION DRAFT

DECEMBER 2006

Carmarthenshire County Council
Leisure & Sport Division

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FOREWORD

Carmarthenshire County Council is strongly committed to its rights of way network – in recent years we have made substantial progress in improving the network but much remains to be done. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) process, as required by the Welsh Assembly Government, is a crucial element in the direction and scale of future work on access to the countryside, providing a long-term view of policies and actions.

This Assessment Report forms a vital part of that process, giving details of past trends and current conditions affecting public rights of way and wider countryside issues. It is part of the consultation process for the preparation of the ROWIP itself, which will be published in November 2007.

We are seeking the views of a wide range of people and organizations, and need you to read the findings that the Assessment has highlighted, consider whether you agree with them or not and let us have your views.

Your views are important, as they will help us understand whether the findings are broadly supported by the majority of people.

Your responses and the full information from the Assessment will be used to draw up the ROWIP Action Plan. You will get a further opportunity to comment on the draft ROWIP itself in 2007.

HOW TO RESPOND

Please read the report through, then you can send us your responses either by email or on paper. It would be helpful if you could reference your comments to a page and paragraph number in the report.

If you want to reply by email, please email GCarlsen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

If you want to reply on paper, to Gary Carlsen, Parks & Countryside Unit, Ty'r Nant, Trostre Business Park, Llanelli, Carm., SA14 9UT.

If you have any queries, you can telephone Gary Carlsen on 01554 747530, or email GCarlsen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS BACK BY Monday 12TH February 2007

Thank you very much for your time and input.

**County Councillor Clive Scourfield
Executive Board Member (Regeneration & Leisure)**

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2007-2017)

ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Carmarthenshire County Council as Highway Authority has a duty under section 130 of the 1980 Highways Act to “*Assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the highway authority, including any roadside waste which forms part of it*”

1.2. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on all highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area.

1.3 This 10-year strategic plan is the prime means by which the Council will identify the changes to be made in respect to the management and improvement of the local public rights of way network in order to attain better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.

1.4 In drawing up the plan, the Council is required to assess:

- the extent to which public rights of way meet the present and likely 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 and others with mobility problems.
- The plan will also consider rights of way in the context of other opportunities for the public to obtain access to the countryside.

1.5 The process of creating the ROWIP

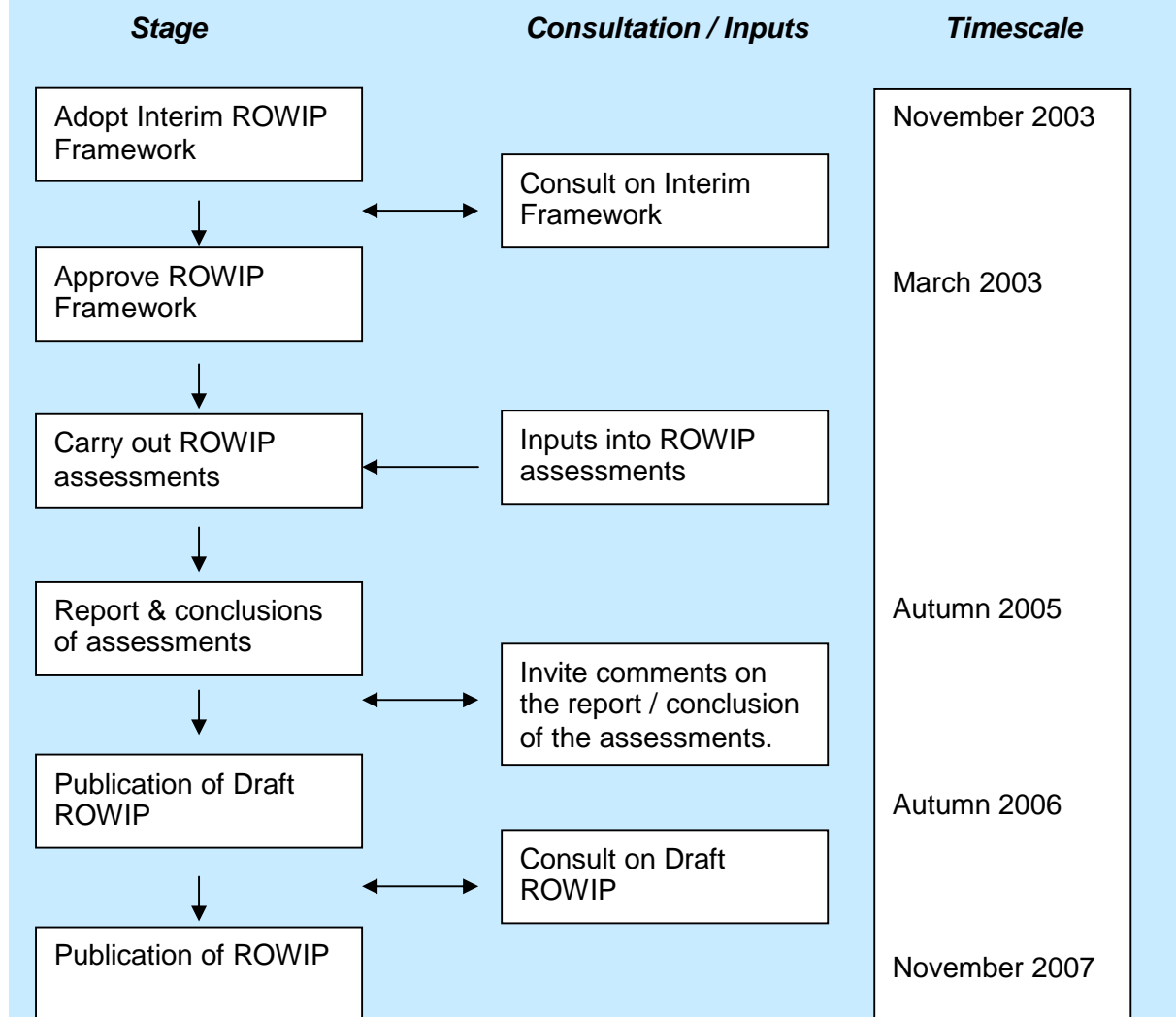
1.5.1 Preparation

In 2003 a report entitled “The Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan-Framework for Production” was produced which outlined:

- The timetable for production of the ROWIP
- The ROWIP assessments that the Council would be making
- The consultation and reporting stages
- How the Council would resource and deliver the plan

1.5.2 The following timetable has been adopted for the purposes of the Carmarthenshire ROWIP - the principal stages for the production of Carmarthenshire ROWIP are outlined below:

Summary of the stages in the production of the Carmarthenshire ROWIP:



1.6 The Carmarthenshire ROWIP will cover all the County with the exception of that section (largely the Black Mountain) which forms part of the Brecon Beacons National Park. There is currently an agency agreement between Carmarthenshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park who manage and maintain the rights of way network that falls within the Park's boundary. Within that area the relevant ROWIP will be that prepared by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

1.7 The ROWIP Assessments

1.7.1 In preparing this Assessment Report, the needs of users and potential users of the public rights of way network were researched, as well as wider interests relating to countryside access and public rights of way, current route provision and local use and demand.

- 1.7.2 The information gathering stage included an examination of existing policies and strategies both locally and nationally, the Citizen Panel survey results for Leisure 2005, the All Wales Condition Survey carried out in 2002 by the Countryside Council of Wales and the 5% sample Performance Indicator survey results for recent years.
- 1.8** During the preparation of this assessment report consultations were carried out with the Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum, an advisory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- 1.9** Following this initial consideration, interim conclusions have been drawn regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the local public rights of way network and other access opportunities.
- 1.10** The current document is being circulated widely for public consultation. Comments received upon the content of this Assessment Report (requested by 12th February 2007) will form an integral part of the process of finalising the ROWIP in draft and final form by November 2007.

2.0

ASSESSMENT ONE

CARMARTHENSHIRE - POLICY & STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 The county of Carmarthenshire lies in South West Wales, bordered by five other counties - Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Powys, Neath-Port Talbot and Swansea. Carmarthenshire is the third largest county in Wales covering some 2,394 square kilometres (11.5% of total Wales land mass).

It is a county of contrasts, with agricultural landscapes occupying much of the County but with urban and more industrialised landscapes occupying the South East. The main settlement towns are Ammanford, Carmarthen, Llandeilo, Llandovery, Llanelli and Newcastle Emlyn - 65% of the 168,531 resident population (est. 2001) live in the south and east.

2.2 The main type of agriculture in the lower lying land is dairying/livestock production (cattle and sheep). There are significant upland areas at Rhandirmwyn, Mynydd Mallaen and Mynydd Llanllwni in the North and North East of the county, which predominantly produce sheep.

2.3 Two main river valleys passing through the county - the Teifi runs along the northern county boundary with Ceredigion, whilst the Tywi runs SW through the county, passing through Carmarthen Town. The Carmarthenshire coastline (incorporating Carmarthen Bay, the estuaries of the Taf/Tywi and Gwendraeth and the Burry Inlet/Loughor Estuary) is abutted to the west by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and to the east by the Gower Area of Outstanding National Beauty. The coastline is of a very high quality and is a major tourist attraction.

2.4 The ROWIP is a document that sits within a range of other strategies and plans published at local, regional and national level. It is important that the ROWIP integrates with these policies. The following have been reviewed as part of the ROWIP process:

2.4.1 **National**

- Wales a Better Country (WAG 2003)
- Climbing Higher (WAG 2005)
- Our Environment, Our Future, Your Views – consultation on the Environment Strategy for Wales (WAG 2005)
- Wales Woodland Strategy (WAG 2005)
- Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales (WAG 2003)
- Well Being in Wales (WAG 2002)
- Transport Framework for Wales (WAG 2001)
- Best Foot Forward (WTB 2003)
- Saddling Up for Success (WTB 2003)
- Moving Up a Gear (WTB 2003)
- Action Plan for the Countryside Experience WTB 2004
- Camre – Strategy for Public Rights of Way (CCW 1996)
- Disability Discrimination Act (2005)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000, S69)

- Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales.
- A Better Wales (CCW).

2.4.2 County/Regional

- Carmarthenshire Community Strategy 2004-2020(Carmarthenshire CC)
- Carmarthenshire Recreation & Sport Strategy (Carmarthenshire CC)
- Carmarthenshire Corporate Strategy 2003-2008 (Carmarthenshire CC)
- Carmarthenshire UDP (Carmarthenshire CC)
- Carmarthenshire Local Transport Plan (Carmarthenshire CC)
- Carmarthenshire Tourism Growth Area (TGA) Plan (Carmarthenshire CC)

2.5 The European Directive on a Strategic Environment Assessment has been acknowledged in this document. Although it is not necessary to carry out an assessment for the purposes of the ROWIP, all of the proposals and actions carried out will conform to the requirements of the European Union Convention on Landscape.

2.6 These documents provide an important context for the preparation of the ROWIP. This report does not seek to provide full details of these documents.

2.7 Of particular current significance to the preparation of the ROWIP and its relationship with other Leisure policies is the Carmarthenshire Leisure Vision 2006-2011.

2.8 Leisure has a fundamental part to play in making our County a better place to live, work, visit and enjoy. Carmarthenshire County Council will undertake a key role in delivering this agenda, pulling together all the key partners and agencies within the county to ensure our residents and visitors live healthier, happier, and more prosperous lives. To do this, we need a clear vision for the County, and be able to offer a range of Leisure opportunities for people of all ages, ability, and background to be part of our active communities. The strategy is in draft final form at present. The essential elements are as follows:

2.9 The Vision

Our vision for 2011 is for a Carmarthenshire that is a fantastic place for people to live, work, visit, and enjoy. This vision will be realised by using Leisure as the vehicle to promote the unique identity and culture of the County, maximising its natural resources.

2.10 Objectives and Outcomes: The Leisure strategy will be the driver for delivering the leisure vision over the next 5 years, and will ‘put Carmarthenshire on the map’ by setting a clear agenda for the County, through the Council and its partners. Everything we do over the next 5 years will be underpinned by our vision and three themed objectives:

- A. Regeneration of the County’s Leisure portfolio
- B. Quality management of facilities

- C. Increasing and maintaining participation through:
 - i. Quality programming;
 - ii. Effective pathways (providing opportunities and support for everybody to participate and / or excel at all levels);
 - iii. Events and festivals to promote community spirit and well-being

2.11 By the year 2011, we aim to have delivered on our strategic vision and objectives, by fulfilling the following 12 aims (along with a full list of actions and outcomes as included in a 5-year work programme):

1. Investing over £50m in regenerating our Leisure portfolio, to include significant investment in outdoor recreation, culture, and indoor wet weather facilities.
2. Bringing spend on Leisure (and Arts and Culture in particular) above national averages through internal and external funding mechanisms
3. Improving and promoting access to the countryside for all users (in line with Welsh averages)
4. Applying for and gaining quality accreditation for the management of all of our main leisure facilities
5. Improving our health by being the first authority in Wales to introduce a minimum of 30 minutes of physically activity per day to primary aged school children
6. Introducing initiatives to increase the number of Carmarthenshire adults who are physically active on a daily basis (30mins moderate intensity activity 5 times per week) from 24% to 35%.
7. Introducing and maintaining participation in leisure activities by being the first authority in the UK to offer free use or significantly discounted use of some of its leisure facilities for all inhabitants of the County, for a whole year, every 10 years of their lives i.e. at the age of 10; 20; 30; 40; 50; 60; 70 etc.
8. Working with tourism to promote a unique identity for the County, 'Putting Carmarthenshire on the map' by making it a recognised UK destination for outdoor activities and cultural events and promoting its coastline and countryside as a major visitor destination
9. Delivering a cohesive events strategy for Carmarthenshire, promoting national, regional, and local events which are aligned to the County's unique identity
10. Investing resources with a stronger focus on quality rather than quantity of provision across the County.
11. Investing in technology to include: smart card; interactive websites; on-line bookings capability; and shared databases.
12. Providing the strategic direction to improve the quality of Parks, Playgrounds, changing rooms and sports pitches to meet local community needs.

2.12 The policies and actions of the final ROWIP will be integrated with this overall strategy and will assist in meeting our vision and objectives.

Conclusions

- 2.13** The countryside is an important resource, both economically and in terms of local quality of life. The various partners involved in the protection and promotion of the countryside need to work together to ensure that the countryside is appreciated, understood and enjoyed by the people living in, working in and visiting Carmarthenshire. Once again the County Council has an important co-ordinating role to play in partnership with the private, voluntary and public agencies to develop a common strategy to the sensitive development of recreational and sporting opportunities within the countryside.
- 2.14** Access to the countryside is one of the most popular pastimes in Britain. It is, after all, the cheapest and easiest, yet one of the most satisfying forms of active recreation. It can be done by all ages, in all weathers and is an excellent way of keeping fit.
- 2.15** As a recreational amenity the countryside has a lot of advantages. It is open all the year round, and can provide a quality of experience not easily found elsewhere. Contact with nature has been proven to positively influence human well-being in a number of ways, such as dispel mental fatigue, improve general health and fitness and can have beneficial psychological impacts on both adults and children.
- 2.16** People are also becoming increasingly interested in environmental issues. They mostly hear about conservation of the countryside through television and the newspaper. Yet, the access routes offer first hand experience of the countryside as a natural resource historical record and workplace. Walking or riding on these old routes is one of the best ways of experiencing the slower pace of pre-industrial life, if only for a few hours.
- 2.17** The economic value of the public path network is generally recognised as being very high. A report by Exegesis Ltd. for the Countryside Council for Wales in 2003 indicated that the annual economic value of the network to Wales was £548m. (Wales Tourist Board study “Best Foot Forward”). This compared with a required investment of £13.6m. annually for 5 years to bring the network into use and then £8.37m annually thereafter. Studies of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and other similar trails have indicated the very substantial local benefits that walking and riding make to the local economy. Similar evidence exists for the benefits accruing into local businesses from horse-riding and cycling activities.
- 2.18** The importance of encouraging access which is both attractive and varied has been identified as a priority by Carmarthenshire County Council, together with the need to work in partnership with other organisations on a co-ordinated basis. The ROWIP provides the means for defining that process in detail.

3.0

ASSESSMENT 2

MANAGEMENT OF THE DEFINITIVE MAP OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

3.1 What are Public Rights of Way?

- 3.1.1 Public rights of way in Carmarthenshire include Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways Open to All traffic (BOAT). These routes are primarily used by the public for informal recreation, such as cycling, walking and horse riding.

Table 1. Classification of Public Rights of Way

Type of ROW	Legal User
Public Footpath	On foot only
Public Bridleway	On foot, on horseback, on pedal cycle
Public Byway	All traffic, including motorised vehicles

There are no Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPP's) or Restricted Byways in Carmarthenshire. The 17 RUPP's that were originally registered were reclassified under former legislation in 1974 and finalised in 1983. Fourteen were reclassified to Byway status and three were reclassified as a Bridleways.

3.2 The Registered Network

- 3.2.1 The Public Rights of Way network in Carmarthenshire is made up of footpaths, bridleways and byways. These were originally defined and registered under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. If a route is shown on the Definitive Map and Statement (the legal document maintained by the Highway Authority), that is conclusive evidence that the public had those rights along the route at the relevant date (1st December 1954), and continue to have those rights unless there has been a legally authorised change. Table 2 provides details of the respective numbers and length of recorded routes in Carmarthenshire (excluding the area of Carmarthenshire within the Brecon Beacons National Park).

Table 2.

Classification	Number of Routes (excluding BBNP)	Kms.(excluding BBNP)	% of network length
Footpath (open to walkers only)	2981	2086.7 km	93.3%
Bridleway (open to walkers, horseriders and cyclists)	122	85.4 km	3.8%
Byway (open to all traffic)	92	64.4 km	2.9%
Footpaths, bridleways and Byways	<u>3195</u>	<u>2236.5 km.</u>	<u>100%</u>

3.3 Other Linear Access

a. Unclassified Roads (“Green Lanes”)

There are approximately 170 of these routes throughout the county, totalling some 150 kilometres of largely unsurfaced roads, which could play a significant role in the provision of recreational routes, particularly for horseriders and carriage drivers. These routes also have vehicular rights though their characteristics are not necessarily always suitable to meet modern vehicular needs. These roads are the responsibility of the Director of Technical Services who is also responsible for all highways with vehicular rights, including Byways.

b. Tir Gofal /Agri-Environmental Schemes.

As part of the Tir Gofal and similar schemes there are opportunities for public access on selected routes which remain in being for the duration of the scheme. Table 3 shows the number of holdings with different types of permissive access and lengths of those types of access. Access to this information is difficult to obtain. The location of permissive routes can normally only be seen by viewing the relevant page of the CCW website, or by identifying the appropriate signage on site.

Table 3 – Permissive Access on Tir Gofal/ Agri-Environmental Funded Schemes.
(Total holdings = 557)

	Number of Schemes with Access	Number of Schemes with Access on Foot	Number of Schemes with Access on Horseback	Number of Schemes with Disabled Access
Number of Holdings in Tir Gofal	57	52	3	2
Total Length of Permissive Access (Km)	52 km	49.6 km	1.3 km	1.1 km

c. “Lost Ways”

These are routes which are not currently shown on the Definitive Map or the “List of Streets” but which may have public rights. Documentary evidence indicating public status would have to be produced if a ‘lost way’ is to become definitive. The number of ‘lost ways’ is not known, but it is likely to be in the region of 5% of the registered network (approx 112 km).

d. Permissive Routes:

These do not have long term legal standing and can be terminated by the appropriate landowner, but in some cases do form an important means of access to particular localities. The County Council and its partners (Forestry Commission, National Trust) have many permissive access routes/schemes on the sites in their ownership. Those

routes and schemes are publicised in the literature produced specifically for those sites.

3.4 The County Council Rights of Way/Access Team

3.4.1 The network of public rights of way in Carmarthenshire is managed by the Council's Rights of Way & Access staff, part of the Regeneration & Leisure Directorate. The Council has to make sure that Public Rights of Way in the County are accessible to the public. This means maintaining surfaces of paths and footbridges, signposting routes where they leave a metalled road and ensuring that the routes are free from natural obstructions (such as encroachment from vegetation and growth from the path surface) and man made obstructions (such as fencing across a path). The Council must also ensure that landowners carry out their own responsibilities, which includes the maintenance of path furniture such as stiles and gates, and the removal of vegetation encroaching from the sides or above the path.

3.4.2 There are broadly two sub-divisions, with necessary overlap/liaison:

- a. Definitive Map / maintenance – dealing with the legal aspects of the Definitive Map and the statutory changes such as evidential claims for rights of way, diversions, extinguishments, creations. Also maintenance of the network via the Community Council grant system, dealing with complaints on obstructions etc to rights of way and developing a GIS Mapping and Database system.
- b. Improvements – focussed on improvements on the ground to enhance the public's opportunity for access to the countryside via the rights of way network and other means, together with associated publicity and interpretive material.

3.5 Definitive Map Issues

3.5.1 The County Council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public rights of way network¹, and “To assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of, and to prevent so far as possible the stopping up or obstruction of all their highways². It also has a duty under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to keep the definitive map and statement under continuous review³.

The Definitive Map is the starting point for these processes as it defines the Council's responsibilities for specific routes.

3.5.2 The “Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way” for the County of Carmarthenshire was produced between 1950 and 1973. It was published in June 1973. Throughout the process accurate and detailed legal documents were produced which now form a valuable archive for issues that involve the Definitive Map.. Between 1973 and 1983, as required by legislation⁴, the former Counties carried out a “Limited Special Review of the Definitive Map” to reclassify routes originally registered as RUPPs (Road Used as Public Paths) or which it was considered should

¹ Highways Act 1980 s41.

² Highways Act 1980 s130

³ WCA1981 s53

⁴ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1968 schedule3 partIII

have been registered as RUPP's, to either footpaths, bridleways or byways open to all traffic. The results of that review are in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of Special Review of Carmarthenshire RUPPs

Number of RUPPs & other routes considered to be RUPPs	Reclassified As	
	Bridleway	Byway
185	79	106

- 3.5.3 Under s.53 of the WCA1981, the Definitive Map and Statement is now under 'continual review'. This means that anyone, at any time, can apply to modify the register if they think it is incorrect in some respect. Formal applications have to be processed within twelve months, with a right of appeal against a refusal, or non-determination. If an application is approved, there is a right of objection from anyone else who considers that the County Council's decision is incorrect. Objections are usually considered at a Public Inquiry before an independent Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate.
- 3.5.4 Since 1996 the County Council has processed 114 section 53 (Schedule 14) applications to modify the Definitive Map (the nature of the applications are to register a path on the definitive map, correct the route of a path on the definitive map or to correct the status of a registered path). Of those applications, 90 have been approved, 24 have been refused or withdrawn. The County Council has also processed over 160 Legal Event Orders (diversions, extinguishments, creations) since 1996. Each successful legal event has subsequently been the subject of a Legal Event Modification Order. This has ensured that the Definitive Map has been kept fully up to date. All of this has had a major effect on the resources needed for Rights of Way activity, notably in staff time.
- 3.5.5 The following table 5 lists the different types of orders processed by the Rights of Way Team, the average number of each of the claims/applications received per year and the average time taken to process each of the claims/applications.

Table 5.

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT SCHEDULE OF WORK							
Type of Application/Proposal	Legislation	Average Number Currently Being Received/Identified	Time to Process Each Case	Total of applications outstanding in 1996 & received 96-06	Processed 1996-06	Outstanding May 2006	
Modification of definitive map(claims based on supporting evidence)	WCA1981	5 per 12 month	24months	75	60	15	
Rectify anomalies on definitive map	WCA1981	80 identified	60	12months	130	50	80
			20	36months			
Diversion(Application from landowners)	HA1980(s119)	9 per 12 month	18 months	157	110	47	
Diversion (Promoted by CCC)	HA1980(s119)	20 per 12 months	36 months	42	12	30	
Extinguishment (Application by Landowners)	HA1980(s118)	2 per 12 months	18 months	21	20	1	
Creation Order/Agreement	HA1980(s26)	1 per 12 months	12 months	14	13	1	
Diversion/Extinguishment (Applications from Developers)	TCPA1990(s257)	3 per 12 months	24 months	23	6	17	

3.6. Digitised Map and Statement

- 3.6.1 For the future it is intended that the Definitive Map will be available in a digitised form. This will improve the efficiency of the process of continually reviewing and updating the map. It will also enable it to be placed on the Council website. The statement is currently being retyped in electronic form and will accompany the map on the website. Currently, the ROW Team have the ROW network in a digitised form as part of a computerised management system (Countryside Access Management System (CAMS)). This is currently being audited and developed as a path management tool.
- 3.6.2 The County Council's Rights of Way team has recently purchased the CAMS system as part of the longer term improvements needed for the rights of way system. Simply put, CAMS is an electronic system of digitised maps linked to a database. The database can be used to store a wide range of detailed information on each of the 3000 registered routes – an inventory of all issues affecting particular routes. The system is an invaluable tool that will improve the efficiency of the ROW Team and the accuracy of information on the network. The information can be used ultimately in the prioritisation of ROW to establish a strategic network of routes. This in turn will help identify priorities for resource allocation for path management, and also in health and safety issues.
- The system will also be invaluable in its use in setting up and maintaining three electronic registers as required under recent enactments of the CROW legislation. An example of the type of information within the CAMS system is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.6.3 The current digitised map base and rights of way data was obtained from the CCW who undertook the digitisation work in 1996-7. Before a final digitised Definitive Map can be produced, all the registered routes will need to be meticulously audited by a person with IT/Cartographic skills, and from then on a person with the same skills will be required to update the map each time a legal or evidential event occurs. The relative priority for this work needs to be balanced against other definitive Map work but work is progressing. It does form a vital element of both the CAMS system and the better access to the Definitive Map by the public over the next 3-5 years.
- 3.6.4 As part of the improvements, packs containing guidelines and application forms to claim, divert or extinguish a path have been produced in an electronic format. These can be e-mailed to prospective applicants. The packs are soon to be placed on the Council website, thereby making it easier for the public to obtain copies.

3.7 Staffing Levels

- 3.7.1 The four members of staff in the Rights of Way Map/Management Team receive on average 60 applications per year to change routes on the ground / amend the Definitive Map. At present, they are able to process an average of 40 applications for orders per year. However, as the network is being opened up it is generating an increase in applications for diversion orders and modification orders. This is because up until the time of opening the path(s), some routes have received little or no use. Therefore, more issues of privacy and security are now arising and many of these new issues tend to be more complex and time-consuming. It is also anticipated that the demand for new housing stock/development in the County will continue to rise. This will increase the number of diversion applications under the TCPA 1990 to enable development to take place.

- 3.7.2 About 50% of the applications to divert, or extinguish attract a financial contribution from the applicants - on receipt of payment (£100 application fee, followed by £1000 as a contribution towards the CC's legal and administrative expenses) these applications are dealt with as a priority over those promoted in the interests of the public, or those promoted in-house. Because of the historic staffing levels a backlog of claims and in-house promoted orders has accrued and continues to grow.
- 3.7.3 The problem will be further compounded with the enactment of section 58 of the 2000 Act, giving owners, lessees and occupiers of agricultural land a right to apply to divert or extinguish a path⁵, a right to a decision within four months⁶ and a right of appeal against a refusal or non determination within four months. CCC will also have a statutory duty to produce and to keep a register of all applications to divert or extinguish a ROW⁷. The register must contain all the details of an application including plans, which must be available for inspection/viewing by the public both in hard copy and via the Authority's website. The Act will also require the Council to keep a register of all applications to modify the definitive map⁸.
- 3.7.4 A further minor constraint on the ROW Team will arise with the requirement of the Council to keep a third register of maps, statements and statutory declarations⁹ submitted by landowners as a limited means of protecting their land from future rights of way claims.

3.8 Lost Ways Claims

- 3.8.1 The ROWIP will also need to address the issue of "Lost Ways". They are routes which may have acquired public status prior to 1949, but which are not registered and have not previously been claimed. There are also routes which have been claimed and registered but have higher rights than those recorded. It is estimated that there may be up to 150 routes that are either unregistered or under registered in Carmarthenshire. The approach which has been adopted in England involves the Countryside Agency investing resources into researching lost ways. In order to progress this issue as a single entity, there would be a need to employ a dedicated project officer for some five years with a budget of around £30,000/year. The County Council and the Local Access Forum, in conjunction with others, have been pressing CCW to consider a similar system to that established in England.
- 3.8.2 An alternative approach would be to deal with applications to register lost ways as they are received, in the same way as any other claim. Such claims will need to be made by 2026, because the 2000 Act will deem the rights of unrecorded routes to be extinguished at that date. Dealing with these routes over an extended time period (perhaps 5/year) has the advantage that it can be integrated with other changes to the Definitive Map. This will require a substantial longer term increase in staff if the target is to be achieved. The complexity of individual claims will have a major effect on the timing/costs but it is estimated that a minimum of 3 additional staff are likely to be needed to meet the needs of the Definitive Map in the long term.

⁵ CROW Act 2000 schedule 6 s7(1)

⁶ CROW Act 2000 schedule 6 s7 (7), s10(8)

⁷ CROW Act 2000 schedule 6 s15(4)

⁸ CROW Act 2000 schedule 5 s2(9)

⁹ Highways Act 1980 s31

- 3.9** The processing of the anomalies and modification claims should be undertaken as soon as possible because of the risk of the loss of witnesses and evidence.
- 3.10** Since 2003 the Definitive Map team was strengthened from 3 to 4 members and staff resources were realigned to achieve more output in the making of orders. Digitising the Definitive Map and Statement will also lead to improving the efficiency of the continual review. At the time of writing proposals are underway to restructure the Countryside Access responsibilities of the Leisure Division and as part of these proposals it is hoped to include an additional Area Ranger post as a priority and a further Definitive Map staff member post.
- 3.11** Although demands for orders of various types is increasing, the system is very time-consuming - in terms of current staff resources, the immediate priority has been to focus on making improvements to the rights of way network on the ground to improve access to priority routes. However, the order-making process cannot be ignored and needs to be improved year on year - the net effect means that additional resources/staff are required in the medium term. Further discussion on this issue is included below, in particular in Assessment 10.

4.0

ASSESSMENT 3

MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

4.1 Historical Background to Statutory Maintenance

Over the last 40-50 years, while progress was made on the Definitive Map, the maintenance of the rights of way network on the ground has been greatly under funded and under resourced. Maintenance is a vital element for rights of way – neglect of essential strimming and clearance results over time in major works of tree/shrub clearance from routes and far greater issues from the perspective of both owners and users.

4.2 Community Councils

In recent years in Carmarthenshire, the primary means of delivering day to day maintenance of local rights of way has been through the Community Programme. This is a programme run in conjunction with the Community/Town Councils who identify local routes, which are important to their community and require annual trashing and minor works. Bids for financial support are then made to the Division. These are assessed and appropriate programmes approved, with up to a 90% funding offer. The Community Councils then implement the approved works with an appropriate contractor.

- 4.2.1 Rights of way can benefit immensely from the key role that Community Councils can play – their local knowledge and approach can be of major benefit in dealing with landowners and users. The County Council has sought to encourage them to “adopt” ROW in their area and take an active role in ensuring that paths are available for use on a sustainable basis.
- 4.2.2 Community Councils have also been asked, as part of the Priority Improvement Programme, for their priorities for improvements to paths. Partnerships have been forged with many on local grant-aided projects. But without an effective system of regular maintenance these very improvements are jeopardised. Many Community Councils already put substantial time and effort and valuable finance into footpaths and bridleways, exercising their maintenance powers under the Highways Act. In the ideal world the County Council would like to see every Community Council exercising these powers for all routes within their area.
- 4.2.3 There are examples of very positive joint action in the SE of the County in particular where the scale and resources available to Town and Community Councils enables them (with CCC grant assistance) to carry out a wide programme of work. These have been focussed in particular upon the maintenance/strimming of routes. Improvement programmes which can attract grant have generally been channelled through the County Council. Four of the

larger Community Councils in the south of the county (Pembrey/Burry Port, Llannon, Llanelli Rural, Trimsaran) have an agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council based upon their willingness to cover maintenance of all the routes in their areas on a priority basis, for an agreed grant. These Councils usually employ their own staff, who also carry out other community council activities when they are not on rights of way work.

- 4.2.4 It is appreciated however that many Community Councils, because of their precept income and staff resources, are unable to give this level of commitment. In these cases details of priority paths for maintenance and cost estimates have been sought and maintenance programmes agreed on the basis of 90% grants. Thirty apply to the County Council for funding for maintenance of specific local paths important to those communities. It is anticipated that another 4 community councils will enter the programme this year (2006).
- 4.2.5 The remainder of the Community Councils (approximately 35) take little or no part in the maintenance of their network of paths. Maintenance of the network in these remaining communities is dealt with by the Rights of Way Team on the basis of complaints received. It is not an ideal system, and invariably, because of shortfalls in staff resources and heavy workloads on existing staff, many of the complaints are not addressed or cannot be addressed within an acceptable timescale. In the short term, efforts have been focussed on improvements to the network carried out by the Ranger Service with grant-aid. As these improvements are completed, over time, the Ranger team will be able to give more attention to maintenance issues.
- 4.2.6 The limitations on time and finance for all Councils are appreciated but even if direct and comprehensive financial input is not feasible there are still many opportunities for Community Councils to assist in improving the network. For example, if every Council made a commitment to check out all or priority paths in their area just once or twice per year, the County Council would gain valuable information on the extent of problems on the network. Community Councils would also be able to provide their assessment of priorities for resolving those problems. Individual Community Councillors might “adopt” say 2 paths and report twice pa on their condition. Adopting certain specific and popular paths for regular, essential maintenance would be another alternative. Signposting and waymarking routes might be equally relevant and beneficial. Whilst individually it would not be a large input, in aggregate it could make a real difference.
- 4.2.7 In carrying out its maintenance responsibilities the County Council gives priority to Promoted County Walks, routes which have been improved and promoted by itself and others. Negotiations are currently being held with those Community/Town Councils who have a County Walk within their community. The councils are being asked (with grant aid) to take on the maintenance of the paths within the promoted route, particularly in relation to control of summer vegetation growth.
- 4.2.8 It has been emphasised throughout that the County Council is not looking to Community Councils to carry out its own duties and responsibilities by default. The County Council has put substantial resources into improving the network over the next 3-5 years but much more would be achieved working in

partnership. The County Council wishes to encourage closer cooperation between the Community Councils and its Highways Department, who are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of byways and unsurfaced public roads (*Green Roads*). Community Councils do have powers specific to RoW – a brief summary is included as Appendix 2.

4.3 Bridleways:

- 4.3.1 For historical reasons there are relatively few bridleways within the County. The % of the total network amounts to 3.8% (85km of total 2236 km.). In comparison, figures for the County of Ceredigion indicate that 21% of the network's registered routes are bridleways. (522 km of total 2506 km.) This difference between the two rural counties is explained primarily by the fact that historically there were less bridleways created by long use in the County. A secondary reason could be the way that the former Parish Councils interpreted the registration procedures in the 1950's, which may have resulted in some lost ways being classified with lower rights than existed.
- 4.3.2 There is a long standing commitment as part of the Corporate Plan (CCC) to provide additional facilities for horses, e.g. improvement schemes at Mynydd Mawr, Llyn Llech Owain, Pembrey and also joint partnership schemes done with Forestry Commission at Crychan Forest and Nant Gronw, specifically for horses. Details of works to date are included in the Improvements assessment below. The lack of available horse-riding routes is however still a significant limiting factor which is appreciated.
- 4.3.3 There is a general perception that new bridleways can be "created" easily. Whilst evidence to indicate the need for upgrading of footpaths to bridleways is possible, such occurrences are likely to be relatively scarce. However, in reality upgrading is a lengthy and difficult process and not likely to be very effective unless a considerable number of landowners generously donate new routes or very substantial funds are made available for the necessary financial packages. In the absence of landowner agreement the procedures would be both long and costly and to date have not been considered a priority.
- 4.3.4 The lack of bridleways puts into sharper focus the importance of byways and green roads (unclassified roads, including those without a tarmac surface shown on OS maps with green dots.) At the present time the BHS are carrying out a survey of the detailed condition of all bridleways, byways and green roads, with the results anticipated before the end of 2006.
- 4.3.5 Byways also carry vehicular rights, but the general lack of maintenance resources has led to many routes being effectively blocked by natural growth and other obstructions. They would be available for horses if cleared but they should be made available for vehicles as well, unless legal restrictions were placed on use by vehicles.
- 4.3.6 The current intention (subject to the detailed findings of the survey) is to establish a programme of possible Horse Trails, with defined routes using bridleways/byways/other roads/FC/other public land etc where grant assistance may be available from EC or Lottery sources in particular.

4.4 Dealing With Complaints of Obstruction/Enforcement

- 4.4.1 There is no set policy on enforcement. However, high profile/priority cases are being pursued by the ROW Team. Each case is very time consuming in evidence gathering and assembling the case in preparation for a court prosecution. Therefore, only a few cases per year can be dealt with.
- 4.4.2 Recently, the Rights of Way Team has expanded to four members. However, at the present time staff are still unable to investigate and resolve all the complaints received. The situation has been further compounded with the introduction of legislation under the CROW Act¹⁰ which gives complainants the right to serve notice on Local Authorities requesting that action be taken to remove obstructions. The complainant has the right to pursue the request through to the Magistrates Court, which has the power to issue directions requiring the authority to take steps to secure the removal of the obstruction(s). Carmarthenshire County Council has received no notices to date.
- 4.4.3 Although the Authority has a duty to protect and assert the rights of the public to use the rights of way network, there is no formal protocol on enforcement because of the lack of staff to follow cases through, if necessary, to prosecution in the magistrates' courts. Unfortunately, there may be a perception amongst the farming and landowning community that court action is unlikely, leading to requests from the team to remove obstructions being ignored. This has led to a build up of obstruction problems, many of which have been unresolved to the present day.
- 4.4.4 Court action is not generally considered to be the most efficient method of resolving disputes and obstructions, either for the Council or the landowner. Nevertheless, where negotiation fails it may be the only course of action open to the Council and has been used in the past.
- 4.4.5 It is interesting to note that since Cheshire introduced an 'Enforcement Protocol' in 2001, the number of enforcement notices served decreased steadily from 79 in 2001 to 35 in 2004. This has been interpreted as a success, in that the position taken by Cheshire in not tolerating obstruction of public rights of way by landowners is fully understood by landowners who either refrain from obstructing rights of way where previously they would have carried out their illegal actions, or, act within the legal time frame to remove obstructions without having to be approached by the Enforcement Officers.
- 4.4.6 Further investigation into a similar protocol for Carmarthenshire is proposed.

¹⁰ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 s63

5.0

ASSESSMENT 4

CONDITION OF THE NETWORK

5.1 A ROWIP pilot project in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to test approaches to the ROWIP process, provided valuable information on the amount of time required to complete the survey and the financial cost of carrying out the survey.

5.2 Because of the size of Carmarthenshire's ROW network a 100% survey would not have been feasible within the timescale for the publication of the ROWIP. However there was available a large volume of sample surveys and this work was supplemented by additional information available as a result of ongoing work on rights of way.

The initial source was the Countryside Council for Wales ROW Condition Survey 2002 (8.5% sample). This was allied to the Carmarthenshire annual Performance Indicator (5% sample) survey as the baseline data for the ROWIP condition assessment. The objectives were to:

1. Provide baseline data for use with the ROWIP.
2. Establish the condition of the ROW network.
3. Provide estimates of the resources required to put the network into good condition.
4. Provide a basis for estimating the maintenance costs of PROW in Carmarthenshire.
5. Compare with previous PI surveys to evaluate any trends in improvement of the condition of the network as a whole.

5.3 SURVEY CRITERIA

5.3.1 The Countryside Council for Wales survey was based on randomly selecting twenty-one 3 square kilometre survey squares. The survey endeavoured to establish the answer to the following questions:

1. How easy are paths to find?
2. How do survey results compare with the PI Survey?
3. What is the condition of the path furniture?
4. What is the chance of meeting an obstacle?
5. What is the chance of using a right of way?
6. How easy are paths to follow?

5.4 How easy are paths to find, and how do the survey results compare with the **BVPIs** (Best Value Performance Indicators)?

5.4.1 This indicator provided a measure of how easy roadside paths are to find, by looking at the extent of signposting and waymarking, and also indicates the extent to which the County Council is fulfilling its statutory duty to signpost public rights of way where they leave a metalled highway¹¹

¹¹ Countryside Act 1981 s27

Table 6. Signposting of a PROW at a Metalled Highway

CCW Survey 02-03 % of network	BVPI 02-03 % of network	BVPI 03-04 % of network	BVPI 04-05 % of network	Rating out of 25 Authorities(02-03)	Rating out of 25 Authorities (04-05)
17%	15%	24%	31%	23rd	20th

5.4.2 It can be seen from table 6 that both surveys in 2002-03 showed similar low levels of signposting. However, in subsequent years of the PI surveys, the percentage signposting of paths that leave a metalled highway has increased significantly to 24% in 2003-04, and 31% by 2004-05. This can be explained by the fact that the Authority has embarked on a county-wide signposting programme, erecting 250 posts and signs on an annual basis on paths that have been identified as open but unsigned.

5.5 What is the condition of the Path Furniture?

Table 7. Condition of Path Furniture

Satisfactory	Inconvenient	Unusable	Rating out of 25 Authorities
81%	13%	5%	20th

5.5.1 The ease with which paths can be used depends substantially on the condition of the furniture, such as stiles, gates, bridges and steps. The results from the CCW survey (table 7) have indicated that about 13% of the furniture is sub-standard and therefore would deter the public from using the path, whilst 5% of the furniture is absent or unusable, therefore rendering the whole of the path unusable.

5.6 What is the chance of meeting an obstacle?

5.6.1 Typical obstacles/obstructions are fences, hedges, vegetation, boggy or flooded sections and unbridged watercourses. Their effect is to either make a path inconvenient to use or at worst make it unusable. In Carmarthenshire the frequency of meeting an obstacle on a right of way is one every 210metres, making Carmarthenshire the third worst performer out of the 25 Welsh Authorities (table 8).

Table 8. Frequency of obstacles per 10kilometres of path

Inconvenient	Unusable	Total	Rating out of 25 Authorities
34.3	13.2	47.4	23rd

5.6.2 There are no specific figures for the most commonly encountered obstacles in Carmarthenshire. However, the national figures (Table 9) give an indication of the likely situation in Carmarthenshire.

Table 9. Most commonly encountered obstacle types (Nationally)

Obstacle Type	Inconvenient/10Km.	Unusable/10Km.
Wall/fence/Hedge across path	2.6	6.6
Natural surface vegetation	2.5	1.6
Natural vegetation from sides/above	3.2	1.0
Unbridged watercourse	1.2	0.5
Steep slippery slope	0.4	0.3
Muddy/boggy/flooded	2.1	0.3
Crops or ploughed/cultivated surface	0.2	0.1
Rough surface/deep ruts	0.3	0.1

5.6.3 The County Council has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of all their highways.¹² The most commonly encountered obstruction which renders a path unusable is a field boundary, which is the responsibility of the occupier of the land. The frequency of paths rendered unusable by natural vegetation, figure second highest in the survey findings, although, paths made inconvenient to use because of obstruction by vegetation from the sides and overhead is a greater problem than surface vegetation. This is of interest as the responsibility to prevent encroachment from the sides and overhead of a path lies with the owner/occupier. There is a strong case for pursuing the most serious cases of obstruction through the courts if negotiations failed to resolve the issues.

5.7 What is the chance of using a right of way?

5.7.1 The total number of problems per 10 km. that make a path unusable is probably the most revealing single measure of the condition of the path network. Therefore, if the combined effects of unsatisfactory furniture and obstacles on the ability to use a path are looked at, it can be seen that in Carmarthenshire the average distance between problems which would render the path unusable is about 650metres (table 10).

Table 10.Problems/10Km (combined effects of unsatisfactory furniture and obstacles)

Unusable problems/10 km	Inconvenient problems/10 km	Unusable and inconvenient problems/10 km
15.4 (1 per 650m)	39.9 (1 per 250m)	55.3 (1 per 180m)

5.8 How easy are paths to follow?

5.8.1 A user of a path needs to be able to follow the route of a path on the ground. Therefore, the assessment did not take account of the condition of the path, but rather measures the ease with which it could be followed. A path was classed as satisfactory if a typical user could follow the route of a path, if necessary with the aid of a map, without getting confused or lost (table 11).

¹² Highways Act 1980 s130

Table 11. Percentage of paths that were satisfactory to follow

Satisfactory	Rating out of 25 Authorities
95%	4th

5.8.2 The ease with which a path may be followed is due to several factors:

- Good signposting and way-marking along its length
- Landscape
- Level of usage
- Accuracy of the map being followed

5.8.3 Out of the whole of the CCW survey, this is the one area where Carmarthenshire's network rated high, being in the top four Welsh Authorities. To put it in context, a third of the authorities have over 90% of their network recorded as satisfactory to follow. The main reason why Carmarthenshire has performed better than the majority of authorities is due to the quality and accuracy of the Definitive Map and Statement, maintained by the Rights of Way Section (see assessment on Definitive Map).

5.9 Since 1997 the County Council have undertaken an annual 5% sample survey in accord with Countryside Council for Wales and Welsh Assembly Govt. criteria, in order to assess the public's ease of use of the rights of way network. Table 12 provides details of the surveys which cover the signposting of routes where they meet the metalled highway and their ease of use by the public.

Table 12. PI (5%sample) Survey Results WAG PI NAW 6.10

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
% Routes signposted	8.5%	18%	19%	17%	Foot& mouth	26%	33%	31.2%	38.6%
% Routes open	47.4%	51.9%	57.6%	48.3%	Foot& mouth	27.1%	47.2%	56.5%	59.6%
% Routes both signposted & open	No figures	No figures	No figures	No figures	Foot& mouth	9.3%	18.4%	20%	28.5%

5.10 From the results of the latest Performance Indicator (PI) survey (2005-6) it can be seen that almost 60% of the paths in the network are open which reflects an upward trend over recent years despite a noticeable reduction following foot and mouth restrictions in 2001. Latterly, this is mainly due to the establishment in 2003 of the Countryside Ranger Service, which has focussed on the improvement and promotion of rights of way on the ground.

5.11 Since Nov 2003 the Ranger Service has opened up and improved a considerable number of routes. Substantial grants have been sought and obtained in support of this work, together with extensive partnerships and volunteer inputs from a wide range of organisations. Details are included in Assessment 5.

CONCLUSIONS

- 5.12** From the sample surveys it can be assumed that approximately 60% of the network does not fulfil the statutory obligation of being signposted from the highway. Approximately 40% of the network is closed to the public as a result of overgrowth, obstruction etc.
- 5.13** No assessment has been carried out to date on the ease of use of the network and its availability to different types of users, including those with mobility problems. Therefore it is recommended that further field research should be undertaken in this area, such as targeting the different types of users and disabled groups with questionnaires in order to better understand their perception of the network.

6.0

ASSESSMENT 5

IMPROVING THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

6.1 Historically, within Carmarthenshire there has been little tradition of proper maintenance, improvement and enhancement. In January 2003 the Rights of Way and CROW Act 2000 responsibilities were transferred to the Leisure Division – bringing both proactive and reactive sides together for the first time. Following this transfer, the Leisure Division has been engaged on a major programme of work designed to make a significant difference to countryside access in Carmarthenshire. In Nov 2003 the Countryside Ranger Service was established with 4 new permanent Countryside Rangers funded from increases in the budget from CROW Act and CCC sources.

6.2 The Ranger service was intended to:

- i) Form the focus for rights of way improvement throughout the County;
- ii) Liaise with landowners, Community Councils and other interested organisations on priorities/problems within the area;
- iii) Carry out minor improvements directly;
- iv) Organise and implement other contracted work and integrate volunteer activity within the improvement programme.

6.3 As a first stage emphasis was placed on a more structured priority programme – if the potential for realising the value of access to the County's economy was to be achieved then major improvement was required.

6.4 It was vital to establish a priority programme of grant-aided improvements for 2003/04/05 and later years with a target set for 5% improvement per annum (up to 150km). Grants were sought wherever possible to boost funds. Consultation on priorities was carried out with Community Councils, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the Local Access Forum, Carmarthenshire Tourist Association and other relevant organisations in the County.

6.5 Achievements & New Methods Of Working

6.5.1 During the first 2¹/₂ years of the Ranger Service much has been achieved and established.

- 334 Rights of Way have been pioneer cleared (316 kms / 196 miles). Details of the programmes are included in Appendix 3.
- new electronic and photographic trail for surveying, recording work(s) and outputs implemented in 2004.

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- increased use of palmtop survey equipment and GPS etc., and the installation of the CAMS software programme tailored to rights of way work and databases.
- Emphasis on designing countryside furniture “in-house” rather than off-the-shelf products. Recording mechanisms such as counter systems have been developed for kissing gates and stiles so that accurate figures on usage can be gained.
- Over 30 County Status walks have been established and are now promoted via Tourist Information Centres and other outlets.
- The reaction from Community and Town Councils has been a positive one with this new approach to developing the network in a more “joined up” manner. Landowners and landowner groups such as the NFU, FUW and CLA have been supportive of this facility. Other major public bodies such as the Forestry Commission, National Trust and other user groups have supported improvement. Public support has also been vital and welcomed.
- The intention was to provide significant action on the ground which, over a period of 3-5 years would result in a significant improvement to the rights of way network.

6.6 Partnership grant applications have been made on over 400km of rights of way improvements. A list of partner organisations is included as Appendix 4. Main grants attracted include:

- 1) Adfywio (grant £103,300) – adding a further 12 County Walks to the existing series of promoted walks.
- 2) Community Chest (grant £221,000) for Amman & Loughor River Trails, Trimsaran Community Walks, Ffordd Cwm Gwendraeth, Mynydd Mawr Community Walks
- 3) Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) grants (approx £30,000 pa) at various locations across the County.
- 4) Strategic Regional Trails – the Carmarthen Coast /Tywi / Teifi Trails – a £550k project with £383,000 grant funding from Objective 1, the Big Lottery Fund and Countryside Council for Wales. Work on this project ran until 31st December 2005. The programme included voluntary labour to the value of £60k. The programme consisted of three elements

6.7 Carmarthen Bay Coastal & Estuaries Trail – 55-miles/88.5 kms long from the Carmarthenshire County boundaries at Loughor to Amroth in the west. The route follows around Carmarthen Bay and The Burry Inlet passing bird breeding grounds of international importance. The route also goes up and down the Taf, Tywi and Gwendraeth estuaries and links into and through Pembrey Country Park and the Llanelli Millennium Coastal Park.

6.8 The Tywi Trails – 51 miles/82 kms from Llyn Brienne to the sea at Llansteffan/Ferryside along one of the finest river corridors in Europe. The route follows the river line as near as possible travelling through areas such as Llangain,

Carmarthen, Abergwili, Nantgaredig, Pontargothi, Dryslwyn, Llandeilo, Manordeilo, Llangadog, Llandovery, Cilycwm and Rhandirmwyn.

- 6.9 The Teifi Trails** – 26 miles/41.8 kms on the Carmarthenshire side of the river from west of Cenarth to Cellan/Lampeter. A route is also being developed on the Ceredigion side of the river and will eventually create a long distance route interlinking on both sides from the sea at Gwbert-Cardigan to its source at Teifi Pools (situated to the east of Strata Florida above the village of Pontrhydfendigaid).
- 6.10** In aggregate these successful bids have trebled the effective budget for public footpath improvements and provided a substantial improvement to the walking network in Carmarthenshire. Whilst substantial progress is being made on improving the network, there is much more to do and the 5 year programme is continuing to seek partnership funding for improvements and promotion of walks and bridleway trails in the County. The intention is to make a real difference to the enjoyment of the public's access to the countryside in Carmarthenshire.
- 6.11** In carrying out improvement work, emphasis has been placed on quality workmanship, designing countryside furniture in-house and then sourcing its manufacture locally. Through this design process and working closely with local manufacturers, the unit has been able to adapt furniture to meet the demands of monitoring and output information that is required for the various grant aid bodies. Counter systems for stiles and kissing gates have been developed, as well as a standard approach to bridge design and fabrication.
- 6.12** The reaction from several Town and Community councils and other partners has been extremely positive. Presentations have been made to a number of councils outlining the way forward over the next 3 - 5 years whereby a joined-up process of thinking and implementation of various works is fundamental to the success of the entire approach.
- 6.13** The County is currently developing the following projects in partnership with a number of players: -

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION OR AT DEVELOPMENT/GRANT STAGE

- (1) LLANBOIDY COMMUNITY – WALKS
- (2) BRONWYDD & LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY – WALKS
- (3) PENCADER / LLANFIHANGEL A'R-ARTH COMMUNITY – WALKS
- (4) CONWIL ELFED COMMUNITY - WALKS
- (5) DRYSLWYN / BROAD OAK / COURT HENRY COMMUNITY – WALKS
- (6) LLANDDAROG & LLANGENDEIRNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL - LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY WALKS TO LINK INTO THE NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY OF LLANGENDEIRNE
- (7) ST. CLEARS TOWN COUNCIL – WALKS & RIVERSIDE LINK
- (8) GARN CORNER - AMENITY AREA
- (9) TOMMY DODDS – FERRYSIDE – AMENITY AREA
- (10) LLANSTEFFAN GREEN – FULL DISABLED ACCESS ACROSS BEACH FRONT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS
- (11) HEOL BROWN & LOUGHOR RIVER – TYCROES – WALKS AND AMENITY AREAS

- (12) **TREGYB WOODS – WALKS**
- (13) **YSGOL Y BEDOL, GARNANT - COMMUNITY GARDEN**
- (14) **ALLT NANT-Y-CI (SARON-TYCROES) – CREATION OF RECREATION PARK**
- (15) **LLANDEILO TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITY AREA OFF CRESCENT ROAD**
- (16) **POSSIBLE TYWI-TEIFI VALLEYS WALK – LINKS FROM CARMARTHEN TO NEWCASTLE EMLYN IN THE WEST AND LLANDOVERY TO LAMPETER IN THE EAST LINKING BOTH STRATEGIC TRAILS AND EXISTING COUNTY WALKS NETWORKS FROM NORTH TO SOUTH OR SOUTH TO NORTH**

6.14 Integrating access with other agendas (e.g. Health, Economic Development)

6.15 The Council’s improvement work is already very much allied to the wider agendas with most grant bodies requiring consideration of these inter-linkages. We are also closely linked with initiatives such as “Walking the Way to Health Wales” and the “Urban Walks Initiative” which are aimed at the promotion of related health issues. Similarly with tourism initiatives such as the Tywi Valley Tourism Growth Area where our strategic trails programme is dovetailed into the wider tourism work. Where possible, routes are linked to existing recreational facilities such as picnic areas, viewpoints and amenity areas etc., and villages and towns where “county status” walks already exist or are proposed for development over the next 12-18 months.

6.16 Clear progress is being made as reflected in the number of routes open but the issue of signposting is substantially reducing the PI figure. The need for more signposting has been recognised and forms one of our priorities for the future. In 2005-6 270 signposts were installed. From April 2006 – March 2009 the Countryside Ranger Service has a target of 400 signposts p.a. New signposts have been developed to make installation quicker and unauthorised removal more difficult. All signposts will carry a bilingual message reminding the public that unauthorised removal or damage will result in prosecution and associated penalties.

6.17 Bridleways:

6.17.1 For historical reasons there are relatively few bridleways within the County. Whilst efforts are in hand to improve other equestrian opportunities (e.g. at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Llyn Llech Owain Country Park, Pembrey Forest, Crychan Forest, Nant Gronw and Brechfa) it is considered essential that more emphasis is placed upon ensuring that existing legal bridleway routes are open and available. A priority programme for bridleways is in place within the overall improvement programme defined above and to date work has been carried out on 31 bridleways/ byways within the overall improvement programme. This formed an integral element of the Adfywio/Community Chest/CCW programmes above and is also linked to improvements on other access land (e.g. Forestry Commission estate, Country Parks etc). A pilot project was also undertaken at Llangeler on network changes to enhance bridleway access.

OTHER ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 The Leisure Division (Parks & Countryside) operates a wide range of facilities in addition to its statutory responsibility for all rights of way (footpaths/bridleways) in the County. These facilities include Country Parks, Nature Parks, Woodland Parks, Urban Parks, Country Tours, promoted County Walks & Trails (urban and rural), Woodland Access Agreement sites, Picnic Sites, Fishing venues, Golf Courses, Horseriding and the Millennium Coastal Park. The County Council also works with partners to provide and improve other facilities, notably on grant aided improvement partnerships.

7.2 **Carmarthenshire County Council Country Parks**

a. Gelli Aur Country Park. 24 hectares attracting 127,000 visitors per year. A wooded parkland with commanding views across the Tywi Valley. Deer park, nature trails, arboretum and picnic areas. Changes of ownership of the site have slowed down the County Council's intended improvement programme for the Country Park, which is currently operating on a short term lease basis. The County Council is committed to seeking a long-term future for the Country Park in agreement with the new owners.

b. Llyn Llech Owain Country Park. 64 hectares attracting 130,000 visitors per year. The park is primarily coniferous forest containing a SSSI designated lake. The park has provision for walkers both able and disabled, horse-riders, cyclists and mountain bikers.

A scheme for improved access is being progressed at Llyn Llech Owain - grant approvals the scheme (£681k) was agreed in Oct 2004 and is being implemented to Sept 2007. Funding from Objective 1 and HLF of £320k and £229k respectively has been complemented by contributions from CCW and Gorslas Community Council together with the value of volunteer labour (£50k). Additional facilities will include wildlife feeding station, more opportunities for walkers and riders including bikes and horses.

c. Pembrey Country Park. 202 Hectares attracting 426,000 visitors per year. The park is made up of a variety of habitats including sandy beaches/dunes, pine forest and open grassland. As well as the formal recreational activities, such as golf, a ski slope (with cycle hire in summer period) and train rides, the park offers an excellent walking and cycling environment with its own popular orienteering course. There is also a commercial horse-riding centre on site and provision for individual horse-owners to ride in conjunction with adjoining Forestry Commission land, parts of the beach area and the Pembrey Saltings. An improvement programme for the Park is being devised with a view to seeking Lottery/EC grants – the need for a new visitor centre, better catering facilities and extended activities within the Park are the main priorities.

d. Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park. 104 hectares attracting Y visitors per year. A mixed woodland park on the site of a former colliery / opencast site which has been brought into use as a recreational site following an improvement programme. Completion of a grant-aided programme (£463k) was achieved by 31/12/04 and all elements were completed to programme. Funding from Objective 1 and HLF of £217k and £100k respectively was complemented by contributions from CCW and Gorslas and Llannon Community Councils together with the value of volunteer

labour (£49k).The park now offers significant opportunities for walking, cycling and horse-riding, as well as local events and activities at the Park.

- e. Millennium Coastal Park Llanelli (MCP). A £29m. scheme on 20km. of coastline in the ownership of the County Council (CCC), involving major landscaping, lakes, gardens, woodlands and landmark features. It links the Wildfowl /Wetlands Centre at Penclacwydd (leased by CCC to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust) to Pembrey Country Park. Cycle-ways and footpaths run unbroken through the entire length of the Park and there is also permissive horse-riding on certain sections of the route, with greenway corridors linking leisure and recreation facilities. The MCP with its central Discovery Centre has won a number of national awards and is a major facility of regional status. Recent improvements to the harbour at Burry Port by CCC have resulted in a high quality marina with 450 berths.

The Burrows & Saltings at Pembrey lies between the MCP and Pembrey Country Park and is a Local Nature Reserve of very high conservation value. It comprises over 80 ha. of grazing levels, saltmarsh and estuary of immense educational and recreational significance. Recent improvements include the appointment of a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Ranger, with substantial support from CCW, enabling an events programme, guided walks and volunteer conservation work.

Two additional new LNR's have been designated within the MCP at North Dock Dunes and Pwll.

7.3 Other County Council Countryside / Access sites.

a. Parc Natur Ynys Dawela, Upper Brynaman

A 15 hectare (38 acres) nature reserve on the site of a former colliery.site. The principal function of the site is nature conservation/education with informal low-key recreation. The park also allows for disabled access.

- b. **Picnic Areas.** There are fifteen picnic sites throughout the County which provide low-key casual access to the countryside. Improvements to various sites are ongoing – e.g. Cenarth Picnic Site was improved following RSTP approval for a £19k grant programme in conjunction with Cenarth Community Council.

7.4 Main Facilities operated by other organisations.

- a. Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo (National Trust)(Dyfed Wildlife Trust/CADW). The site, owned primarily by the National Trust, comprises three distinct parts - Dinefwr Castle, Newton House and the surrounding landscaped Park, all of which provide excellent facilities for countryside visitors. There are extensive walks with features including the White Park cattle, fallow deer and a wide range of nature conservation interests, including an SSSI.
- b. Paxtons Tower, Llanarthne (National Trust). Access on foot to unique folly overlooking splendid views of the Tywi Valley with adjoining car park.
- c. Middleton - National Botanic Garden for Wales. Whilst the Botanic Garden operates on a commercial basis, its location in close proximity to Gelli Aur, Paxtons Tower and Dinefwr Park offers the opportunity for a unique combination of attractions within a small radius. Links between the sites for walkers and cyclists

are practicable, using rights of way and minor roads, with the added advantage of the Central Wales line at Llandeilo for public transport users.

- d. Dolaucothi/Pumsaint (National Trust). An extensive estate including valley farms, wooded hillsides and upland common land on the hill tops, with substantial conservation interest including land of SSSI status. A new visitor information centre at Pumsaint provides information on the Roman history of the area, the Red Kite, natural history, walks and other activities.
- e. Dinas Reserve, Rhandirmwyn (RSPB). A 45ha RSPB nature reserve at the confluence of the Tywi and Doethie valleys. Facilities for visitor information/car parking. A nature trail provides access around Dinas Hill, a classic example of Welsh oak woodland.
- f. Forestry Commission. The Forestry Commission manage 8660 hectares of woodland within the County, all of which has been dedicated 'Open Access' for walkers. The majority of Forestry Commission woodlands have been opened to horse riders under a concordat between the British Horse Society and the Forestry Commission.

The Parks & Countryside Unit have also been working in partnership with the Forestry Commission to improve access for walkers, cyclists and in particular for horse riders on major forestry sites - at Nant y Gronw (Cwmduad) and very recently at Crychan Forest (Llandovery) in conjunction with the Crychan Forest Association.

- g. Wildlife Trusts. The Wildlife Trust operates an open access policy on foot to most of their reserves in Carmarthenshire. Details of their sites are as follows:

Table 13. Wildlife Trust Sites with Public Access

Site	Type of Access	Hectarage
AlltCross Inn Fach	Footpaths	4.7
Castle Woods, Llangain	Footpaths	25.5
Coed Wern Ddu	Footpaths	1.0
Cors Goch, Carmarthen	Footpaths	11.2
Cors Pum Heol, Trimsaren	Difficult	4.9
Ffrwd Farm Mire, Pembrey	Restricted	19
Nant Melyn	Difficult	2.9
PoorMan's Wood, Llandovery	Footpaths	16.7
Rhos Cefn Bryn	Restricted	6
Talley Lakes, Talley	Footpaths	25
Y Goyallt	Difficult	5.6

7.5 Access to Open Country

- 7.5.1 Final areas of open country are now confirmed by CCW following local hearings. In Carmarthenshire since May 2005 there are approx 7600 ha of Open Country where the public have the right to roam on foot. This covers all common land in the County together with other areas of mountain, moor, heath and down as defined in the legislation. Initial assessments of access points to Open Country sites are underway by

the Countryside Rangers. A programme of works will follow based on priorities – the Countryside Council for Wales are providing 50% grants for this purpose which will have a significant effect on the rate of progress achieved on this work.

- 7.5.2 Works on a limited number of priority locations with Mynydd Marros and Mynydd Mallaen formed the initial target. Attention was focussed on the improvement of rights of way leading to and across Open Country as well as signing/waymarking at entry/exit points to Open Country. The provision of waymark signs indicating existence of Open Country (at entry and exit points) is an important element of this work but it has also become apparent that the improvement of existing Rights of Way leading to Open Country areas is of equal or greater significance. It is also being noted that the routes of rights of way crossing Open Country often form the locational reference points for users.
- 7.5.3 “Island” sites of open country where access would have to be negotiated with landowners will form a second phase of work in due course. There are very few such sites within the County.
- 7.5.4 A gradual approach is being adopted prior to demand in particular areas being fully assessed. To date the public response in Carmarthenshire to the new availability of Open Country has been very muted, with few issues arising or requests for additional signage etc. It was initially envisaged that these areas of “Open Country” would require an element of wardening. The Countryside Ranger posts were intended to fulfil that role in conjunction with Rights of Way activity and to date are able to meet the limited demands placed. The Open Country areas shown on the new series of the Ordnance Survey maps are of major benefit in assisting the public to locate areas of open country.

7.6 Access to Carmarthenshire’s Coastline

- 7.6.1 The First Minister for Wales recently announced the Assembly Government’s plans to extend public access to the Welsh coastline by developing a new coastal access improvement programme, with major benefits to the economy of Wales and Health Challenge Wales. The key aim of the programme will be to improve access to Wales’ dramatic coast for local communities and visitors by:
- Local path improvements, including new circular routes.
 - Extending opportunities for less mobile people to enjoy the coast
 - Delivering new opportunities for cyclists and horseriders.
 - And in the medium/long term connecting up existing coastal trails such as the Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail and the Heritage Coast Path to form an all Wales coastal path.
- 7.6.2 WAG appreciate that to deliver the programme successfully will require a sustained commitment and very good partnership working. Local authorities are seen as central to the process. The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) are developing a project plan to help guide the work at all Wales and local levels. The intention of WAG is to draw in new resources for the programme via a bid in the next Assembly budget round, as well as investigation of opportunities for drawing in EU Structural and Rural Development Plan funds. It has also been made clear that coastal access improvements are likely to form an important element of ROWIP’s and WAG consider that the new coastal

programme should help ensure that the coastal access priorities identified in these ROWIP's are taken forward within a reasonable timescale.

- 7.6.3 An initial meeting of selected stakeholders was held in July 2006 and while the County Council was not invited, minutes of the meeting have been circulated and further details are anticipated from CCW in October 2006.
- 7.6.4 The County Council in previous successful grant applications (Strategic Trails Project) has been developing elements of coastal access in the Teifi, Tywi and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Path scheme. This previous work has focussed upon walking, utilising largely the existing public rights of way network.
- 7.6.5 When details of the WAG funding scheme are available the County Council will be applying for funds to continue the development of the coast path, with particular emphasis on extending the opportunities for the less mobile, horse-riders and cyclists.

8.0

ASSESSMENT 7

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

- 8.1** The WAG “Guidance to Local Highway Authorities in Wales”, stresses the importance of publicity and promotion of the public rights of way network, stating:

“Information to the public can improve their understanding of the countryside and its long-term care. It also helps to increase the confidence of users and landowners about their rights and responsibilities. Information is the key to encouraging visitors to an area and promoting the opportunities for them to enjoy the countryside through walking, cycling and horse riding.”¹³

It adds that a review of the current position will contribute towards actions needed for improvements.

- 8.2** CCC has an active programme of publicity, though it is apparent from previous surveys that more can and needs to be done to ensure public knowledge of the opportunities available. The main source of information is the 28 page brochure “The Great Outdoors”, which contains details of access opportunities in Carmarthenshire - Country Parks, Urban Parks, County Walks etc. Some 20,000 copies of this brochure have been produced and are available free of charge at Council offices, TICs, leisure facilities etc.
- 8.3** The various Recreational Sites Managed by Carmarthenshire CC (see Assessment 7) have a range of promotional material for the various facilities provided - eg the Millennium Coastal Park, Country Parks at Pembrey, Gelli Aur, Llyn Llech Owain and Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park. Leaflets are available from the parks containing information on the park and the different activities at each site. There are fourteen picnic sites throughout the County, eleven of which have information boards containing general information on the countryside and local walks in the area.
- 8.4** Website improvements have also been undertaken and are a priority for future updating and improvement. The [www. carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk) site has information on the various attractions in the “Great Outdoors” brochure, for which information can be downloaded. The website gives information on the definitive map, the different categories of public rights of way, landowners responsibilities and the countryside code.
- 8.5** The Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum, which was established as part of the authority’s statutory duties under the CROW Act 2000 also publicises its meetings. The agendas, minutes and annual reports are also available for reading and downloading from the site.

¹³ Welsh Assembly Government, Guidance to Local Highway Authorities in Wales, “Rights of Way Improvement Plans”

8.6 The Walks and Trails Group

- 8.6.1 The Walks and Trails Group was set up some 5 years ago to provide a positive exchange between the County Council's Countryside and Access staff and regular users of the rights of way network. The group was instrumental in initiating the series of Carmarthenshire County Walks. Members of the group provided information and advice that led to the list of areas that subsequently formed the basis for the County Walks series; thirty of which are currently available to the public.
- 8.6.2 The Walks and Trails group is an informal body that meets quarterly. These meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the ROW network. The meetings are also regularly attended by Tourism Development Officers and other relevant Council staff.
- 8.6.3 The group has become an essential mechanism to disseminate information to user groups in Carmarthenshire at the detailed level. Key members are involved on a voluntary basis with the promotion and maintenance of the County Walks (and other Rights of Way), working alongside Countryside staff.

8.7 County Walks

- 8.7.1 County Walks leaflets have been produced for the 30 areas listed below to promote key parts of the network and outstanding areas of the County.
- 8.7.2 The main aims for the production of the promotional leaflets and walks are:
- To provide all walkers (residents of Carmarthenshire and visitors to the County), with accessible, well maintained and worthwhile routes.
 - To encourage "Walking Tourism" in Carmarthenshire to support rural economies.
 - To provide a series of walks easily reached by public transport.
 - To support Health and Well-being initiatives to encourage healthier lifestyles.
 - To provide improved access to the countryside and information for disabled residents and visitors.
 - To provide residents and visitors with accurate and interesting information on Carmarthenshire's history, heritage and wildlife.
 - To provide improved access and information for horse riders.

8.7.3 **Table 14** shows the type of information and access provision on the County Walks.

County Walk	Heritage & Wildlife	Horse riding access and/o	Access and/o	Parking and/o	Information and/o
Abergorlech	✓			✓	
Brechfa & Byrgwm	✓			✓	
Bronwydd & Newchurch	✓			✓	✓
Carmarthen	✓			✓	
Carreg Cennen	✓			✓	✓
Cenarth & Newcastle	✓	✓		✓	
Cilycwm	✓			✓	
Cwmdu	✓				
Dolaucothi	✓			✓	
Drefach Velindre	✓				✓
Ferryside	✓			✓	
Laugharne	✓		✓	✓	
Llandeilo	✓		✓	✓	
Llandovery	✓			✓	
Llandysul & Pont Tyweli	✓			✓	
Llanfynydd	✓			✓	
Llangadog	✓				
Llangain	✓		✓	✓	✓
Llangennech	✓			✓	✓
Llansteffan	✓			✓	✓
Llwynywormwood	✓			✓	
NantGaredig	✓				
Nant Gronw Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pembrey	✓			✓	
Pembrey Mountain	✓		✓	✓	✓
Pendine	✓			✓	✓
Pontiets	✓		✓	✓	✓
Swiss Valley	✓		✓	✓	
Talley	✓			✓	✓
Ynys Dawela	✓		✓	✓	✓

8.8 Picnic and Car Parking Areas

8.8.1 Picnic and car parking areas have been constructed in some areas as a convenient starting point, to enhance County walks, and to aid their promotion. Many of the car parks and picnic sites have information boards providing complementary or additional information. Most interpretation panels are provided by the County Council whilst others are provided by other organisations e.g. National Park Authority, The Woodland Trust.

8.9 Information panels.

8.9.1 Information panels are an integral part of some County Walks providing additional en-route interpretation. They are sited at key points along the walk (e.g. adjacent to an Iron Age hill fort).

8.10 Disabled Visitors

8.10.1 Some sections of County Walks have been improved for disabled visitors along with new or improved parking and picnic sites to aid access to the countryside. (Unfortunately the nature of the landscape in Carmarthenshire does not allow accessibility for all visitors on all parts of the network).

8.11 Local Outlets and Tourist Information Centres

A series of local outlets have been arranged for each County Walk and the Tourist Information Centres, Millennium Coastal Park Discovery Centre, Country Parks and other facilities also stock copies. Most leaflets are available from the outlets at a nominal charge whilst others are available free of charge.

8.12 Community Walks and Rides

8.12.1 The success of the County Walks series has encouraged some local Community Councils to apply for grant aid to develop and publicise their own local network of Rights of Way. County Council staff are currently working closely with six Community Councils to create a series of **Heritage Trails** for the Amman and Loughor Valleys. The six areas will have two interpretation panels in a prominent place within each community along with its own leaflet as part of a series. This has been the catalyst for adjoining communities to become involved with at least four other adjacent areas following suit.

8.12.2 This linked approach allows walkers a greater variety of use of the network as large areas are improved at the same time. This provides for challenging long distance walking opportunities or shorter less demanding walks making the network attractive to wider public use. It has also allowed the creation of a long distance circular route connecting all six communities and both valleys.

8.12.3 Other Community Councils in Carmarthenshire have a track record of promoting their Rights of Way, notably Kidwelly who are active in maintaining their paths and have produced a very creditable and attractive leaflet highlighting four walks in their area.

8.13 Regional Trails (Strategic Trails)

8.13.1 Three new regional walking trails have recently been completed - the Carmarthenshire Coastal Trail, Tywi Valley Trail and Teifi Valley Trail. Not only are these strategic trails attractive new developments in their own right but they also provide connections with the existing County Walks series. This linking of the established promoted routes

within the County has been a development aim for some time. The three routes listed below are now making this objective a reality, creating important linear routes with additional satellite routes along their length. This makes it entirely feasible for walkers to spend days or weeks at a time enjoying a variety of walking opportunities along a single linear route.

- 8.13.2 Promotional materials are shortly to be released for all three trails and will be much more comprehensive than the County Walks leaflets reflecting their relevant importance and distance covered. A brochure will highlight the heritage and natural history of each section of the Trail and will also include maps to help guide the way.
- 8.13.3 Way-markers have been designed for the trails to give each a unique, individual signature. The way-markers will also help to avoid confusion on the ground as the trail meets other paths.
- 8.13.4 The Landsker Borderlands Trail is also an important part of the portfolio of promoted Walks in Carmarthenshire; it was set up initially by SPARC (South Pembrokeshire Partnership for Action for Rural Communities) and is marked on the map as a long distance path on the Ordnance Survey. Some sections of this trail have over the last few years fallen into disrepair - the sections that lie within Carmarthenshire are being brought under the umbrella of the County Walks maintenance programme to secure its future. The information published for this trail is now out of date or unavailable and will need updating to enable further promotion.
- 8.13.5 St. Illtud's Way is a well established route shown on the Ordnance survey map. Runs from Pembrey Country park to Margam Country Park over a distance of 64 miles. A privately published guidebook is available.

8.14 Urban Walks

- 8.14.1 Urban walks booklets have now been produced for Carmarthen, Ammanford, Burry Port and Llanelli. Each leaflet contains details of six walks and as the name implies the walks are set within urban areas. They tend to make use of pavements as opposed to footpaths although the Burry Port and Llanelli walks utilise the Millennium Coastal Park paths. The booklets aim to get people walking to promote Health and Wellbeing, and contain information on the health benefits of walking for its own sake and to encourage an alternative to travelling by car. It is hoped that people who read and use these booklets will be encouraged to venture out into the wider countryside.

8.15 Walk the Way to Health initiative. (Camau Bach)

- 8.15.1 The promotion of walking as a way back to health or to maintain good levels of fitness is taking on increasing importance. The County Council recognises the significance of initiatives that encourage walking and hopes that the importance of the Rights of Way network throughout Wales will be better recognised by both the public and central government.
- 8.15.2 The Walking the Way to Health Initiative has its own co-ordinator in Carmarthenshire as part of the Parks and Countryside Unit within the Leisure Division. The scheme (named Camau Bach in Carmarthenshire) commenced in November 2005 and currently targets six key Community First areas within the County. The scheme ties in with the GP referral scheme and is aimed at increasing the health and well-being of inactive

people and people living in areas of poor health by promoting regular, brisk walking within local communities in Wales.

8.15.3 It promotes healthy living by setting up and supporting walking groups for people recovering from illness or those in need of more exercise. As group members improve they are encouraged to organise their own walks to maintain their interest and improve their current levels of fitness. County Walks leaflets and Urban Walks leaflets are provided to participants by the Coordinator.

8.15.4 Since the launch of the Walking the way to Health initiative over 600 people have participated on the scheme. The intention is to roll the scheme out across the whole of the County and efforts are underway to secure funding for this project.

8.16 Guided Walks

8.16.1 Guided walks are organised by Country Park staff throughout the summer months utilising the ROW network. The Ramblers Association, the Forestry Commission and other walking groups/clubs also organise and lead such walks.

8.17 Current Issues and Challenges for Promoting the Network.

a. County Council Web Site

8.17.1 The growing importance of the internet and its use for obtaining information is recognised by the County Council's Countryside Recreation staff. Efforts have been made to create Web pages that stimulate interest in the Rights of Way network and other associated facilities. Most of the County Walks leaflets are now available as down-loadable printable pages. Others need to be added, along with up to date details of the three long distance trails. Countryside staff will need to meet the challenge of the growing demand for professionally produced Web Site information. Better use can and will be made of the internet to provide information to the general public and user groups.

b. Horse Riding

8.17.2 Promoting horse riding in Carmarthenshire is a topic of growing importance. The County has only of a small percentage of its ROW network designated as Bridleways and has initiated improvement programmes on the significant sections that do exist. Some success has been achieved to open up sections of Forestry Commission woodland, with associated promotional material.

c. Access for people with disabilities.

8.17.3 There are over 8.5 million disabled people in the UK. Ignoring the needs of people with disabilities is ignoring the needs of a significant percentage of people who would like access to the countryside. Efforts have been made to make access to the countryside possible to all potential users of the Rights of Way network in Carmarthenshire. Some paths have been created of a gentle gradient whilst others have been surfaced to a better standard. Information is also provided on promotional material as to the suitability of routes for people with mobility problems. In addition to this the text on promotional

materials is made as large as reasonably possible to accommodate the needs of people with impaired vision. Work also continues to replace where possible, stiles with kissing gates to help the less agile to cross boundaries without difficulty.

8.17.4 Despite these moves in the right direction, efforts will need to continue year on year, as a great deal remains to be done in order to meet the needs of all potential users and to continue to attract to the network as wide a body of users as possible. Further details are included in Assessment 8 below.

d. Maintenance versus Promotion

8.17.5 Actively promoting routes brings its own problems. The initial improvement works and promotion is only the start of the job. Where routes are promoted and recommended to the public they must be maintained to a good standard. Regular checks are essential and maintenance works on promoted routes have to become a priority over others.

8.17.6 The number of promoted routes in Carmarthenshire has more than tripled in the last five years and several more are due to be added soon. This puts substantial demands on limited resources, particularly staff time. With this in mind Countryside staff encourage Local Access Groups and Ramblers Association groups to help with the maintenance of parts of the network on a voluntary basis. In addition, efforts are being made to develop closer working relationships with Community Councils, with the aim of getting them more involved in these key parts of the network.

8.17.7 Such measures however successful can only meet the needs of parts of the network. A greater commitment to financing the maintenance of the Rights of Way network is essential at national and local government levels. To properly develop tourism in Carmarthenshire and to meet the demands of the local population we need to be able to promote the network as a whole not just in parts.

9.0

ASSESSMENT 8

ACCESS FOR ALL

- 9.1 It is estimated that one person in five in the UK is a disabled person (ODPM 2003) with greater numbers when temporary disabilities are included. The implications of the disability are often shared by families, friends and carers. Older people may not consider themselves disabled but can experience many of the same barriers as a result of stamina, mobility and sensory issues.
- 9.2 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000¹⁴ requires Local Authorities to consider the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and those with mobility problems, as well as to users of the paths in general.
- 9.3 The Disability Discrimination Acts of 1995 and 2005 give disabled people rights to access everyday services that others take for granted. Service providers have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to the way the service is delivered so that disabled people can use them. The 1995 Act indicates that ‘services’ include ‘access to and use of any place which members of the public are permitted to enter’. The 2005 Act extends this duty to include local authority functions.
- 9.4 In addition to the duties set out in these Acts, there is a need to make the countryside more accessible for other potentially excluded groups such as those from minority ethnic backgrounds, those on low incomes, young people (inc. pram/pushchair users), and those with learning disabilities. There are a number of factors which are recognised as acting to prevent people from disadvantaged groups reaching opportunities which are generally available to the wider public. Many of these factors apply to countryside access, and research has been carried out specifically to determine their nature and extent. These factors include:
- **Transport**
- 9.4.1 People may have difficulty in getting out into the countryside. This may equally apply to people with mobility problems, and people who do not have their own transport, or those who are not served by public transport. Many of the excluded groups are not able to reach the countryside conveniently. Public transport tends to be concentrated in the urban areas, and the countryside is often denied to those without a car or van. The distribution map below shows that the highest figures for car ownership are generally in the more rural areas.
- **Safety and security**
- 9.4.2 People may feel uncertain about what to expect and how to behave when they get to the countryside. Fear of the unknown may mean that people will not use a path unless they have sufficient information first.

¹⁴ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 s69.

- **Knowledge and access to information**

9.4.3 People may be unaware that the countryside is available to them, and may not know how to find out what they can and can't do. Research has shown that the countryside is not marketed in a way which appeals to under-represented groups.

- **Physical accessibility**

9.4.4 People may encounter difficulty using a path, for example, they may be prevented from using the path by stiles, gates, steps or a narrow path width.

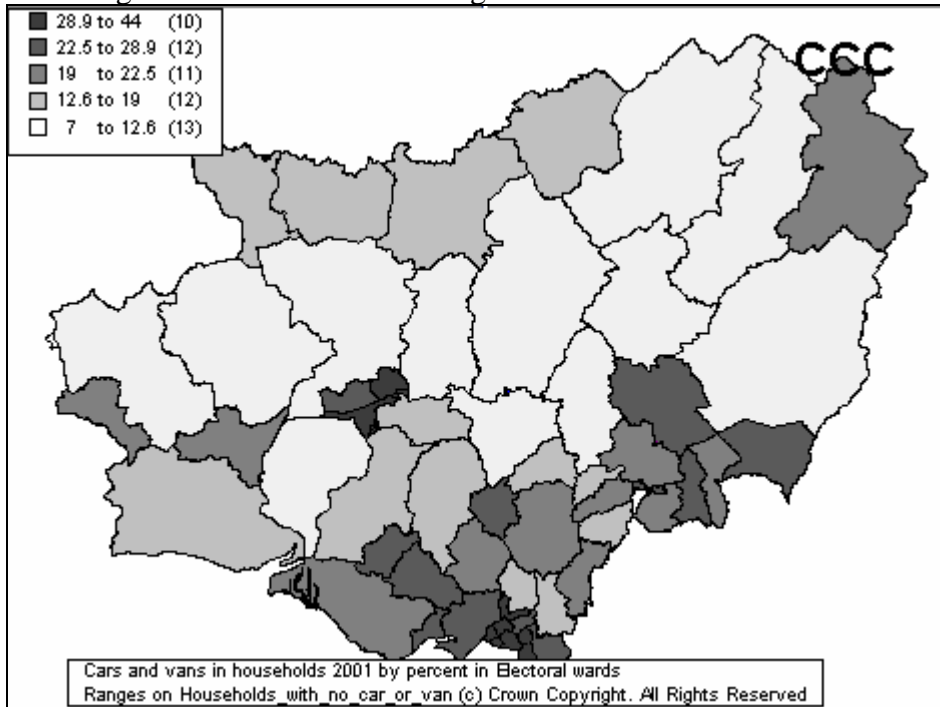
9.5 The term “accessible” is commonly taken to mean “available to wheelchair users”. However, we need to recognise that its meaning is far wider, and that accessibility should encompass not only those people with mobility problems of various types but also anyone who, for any reason, is not able to access the countryside or the path network.

Table 15 gives data taken from the 2001 census on long term disabled, car ownership, lone parents, employment and ethnicity.

Table 15 . Data from 2001 Census

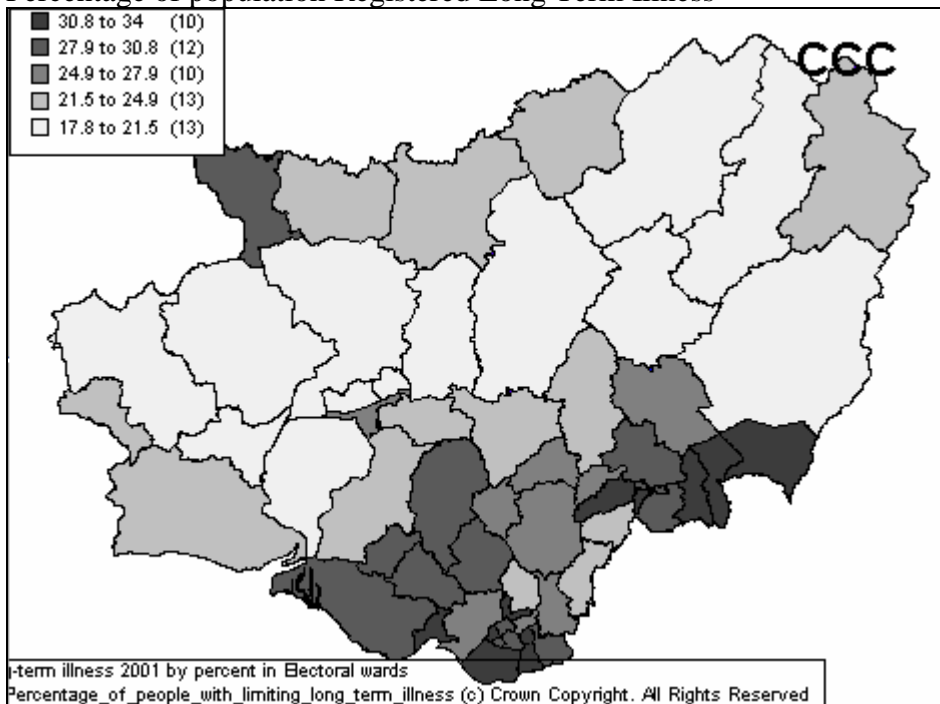
Population of Carmarthenshire	172842
% population registered long term illness	25
% households with no car	21
% population as lone parents	6
% population registered unemployed	4
% population belonging to ethnic groups	1

Percentage of Households Possessing No Car or Van

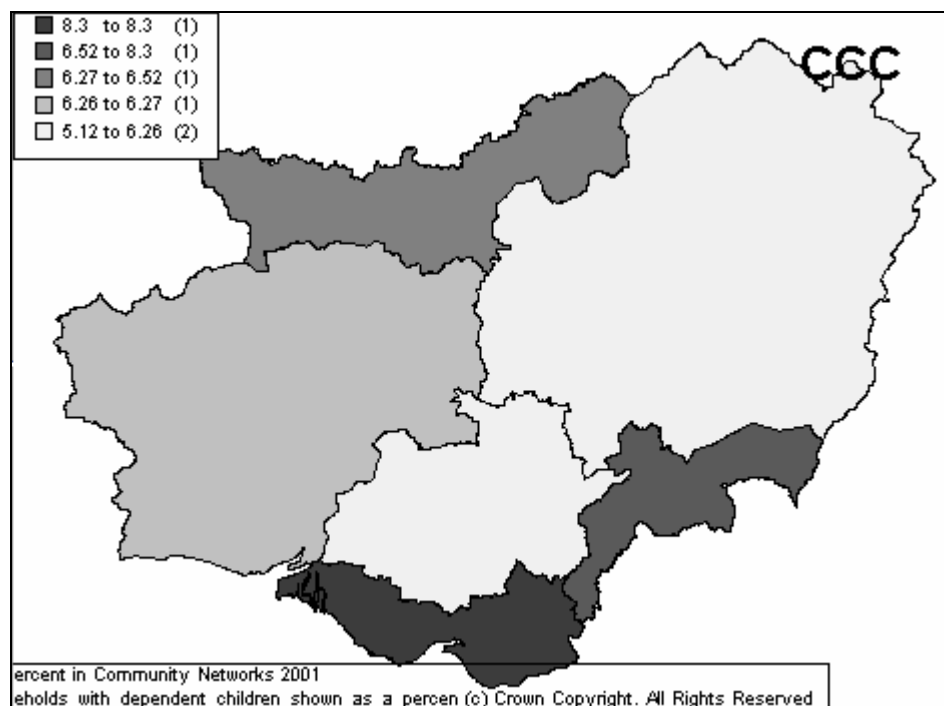


9.6 The following distribution maps also show that the highest numbers of persons registered as long term illness, lone parents and registered unemployed are to be found in the urban areas where access to the rights of way network is fragmented.

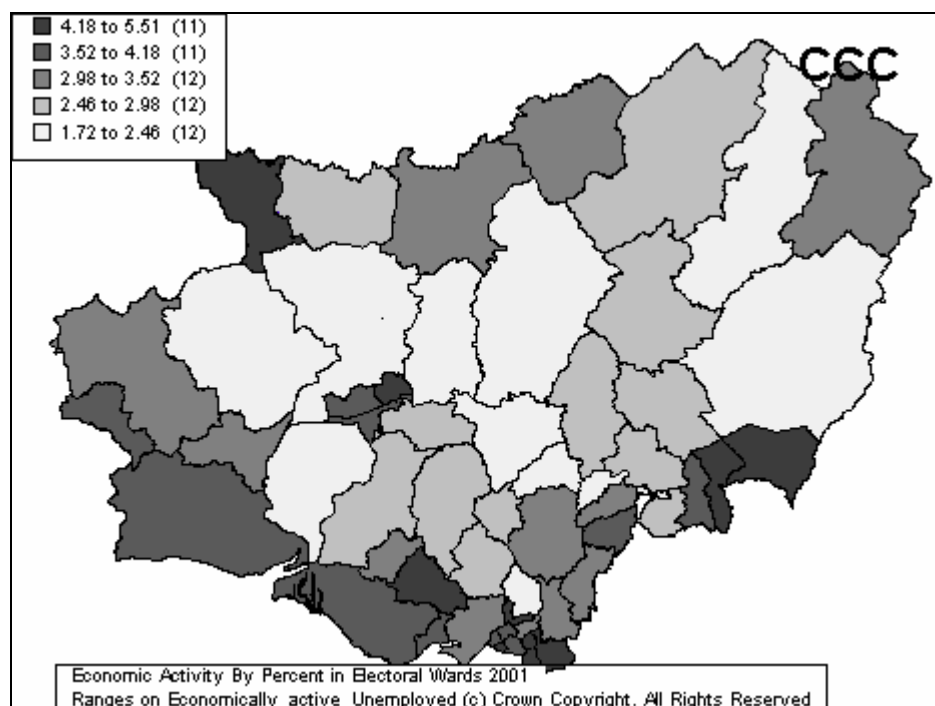
Percentage of population Registered Long Term Illness



Percentage of Population as Lone Parents



Percentage of Population registered Unemployed



9.6.1 For many of the excluded groups, research has shown that the availability of managed green space is of great importance. The County Council's direct provision of parks/other greenspace, especially in the more urban areas in the south-east of the County, do provide an essential resource for access to open space. Having such access close to home reduces the need for transport and reduces cost/time for enjoying such

facilities. The extensive areas available, notably in the Millennium Coastal Park, do offer opportunities to enjoy a wider countryside experience.

9.6.2 In Carmarthenshire the Country Parks at Pembrey, Gelli Aur and Llyn Llech Owain, together with Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park (Tumble) and Ynys Dawela Nature Park (Brynamman), form an arc around the main urban areas of the County and offer a safe, controlled environment where people can enjoy the countryside without worrying about, for example, getting lost or finding somewhere to park. All the Country Parks have wheelchair accessible trails, and cater for disabled individuals, groups and people with learning disabilities. Further details are provided below.

9.7 Rights of Way Network

9.7.1 Because of the topography of the County and the low level of maintenance and improvements to the network for many years, many routes are inaccessible to those with mobility problems.

9.7.2 Section 69 of CROW Act 2000 places a duty on local highway authorities to have regard to the needs of people with mobility problems when authorising the erection of barriers on footpaths or bridleways under section 147 of the Highways Act 1980. Section 147ZA empowers them to make agreements with owners, lessees and occupiers of land for works to replace or improve structures (such as gates or stiles) to make them safer or more convenient for people with mobility problems.

9.7.3 Under the Highways Act 1980, stiles and gates, which are erected to prevent the egress or ingress of animals are the responsibility of the owner of the land over which a right of way passes. Where existing furniture on a path requires replacement, CCC endeavours to negotiate with landowners¹⁵ to replace the item with furniture that is least restrictive to the user of the path, for example, replacing a stile with a kissing gate or simply leaving a gap.

9.7.4 There is a gradation of furniture, which forms the basis for any assessment e.g.

Gap
Gate
Kissing gate
Style
Etc.

9.7.5 Understandably, some landowners have reservations regarding this policy due to their fears that gates can be left open for stock to escape. In order to alleviate their fears CCC has worked with a local manufacturer in producing self closing stock proof kissing gates which are supplied to owners on request. In situations where owners are seeking to install new pieces of furniture on a path where previously there was no furniture¹⁶, or the majority of the existing furniture are gates, CCC's minimum requirement would be for a kissing gate rather than a stile.

9.7.6 Enquiries and preliminary discussions have also been held with a GIS software company to produce a report on Gradient Profiles for each right of way in the County.

¹⁵ Highways Act 1980 s147ZA

¹⁶ Highways Act 1980 s147

This data will be extremely useful in identifying paths /circular routes with the potential for upgrading for disabled use.

9.8 Other Access Sites

9.8.1 Existing provision of access to the Council's major managed sites does include a variety of measures to cater for users of varying levels of mobility.

9.9 At **Pembrey**, the Country Park and Cefn Sidan Beach are owned and managed by Carmarthenshire County Council, providing the following facilities

- Disabled toilets at main beach access
- Disabled toilets at the Restaurant
- Disabled Beach platform
- Viewpoint car park - views across Carmarthen Bay and the Burry Estuary towards Gower
- Most Park picnic and BBQ benches have been adapted to accept wheelchairs
- Disabled access to the 2 Park Bird Hides
- A Beamer Trampler for free hire - advanced booking is preferable but not essential. Extensive trails around the Park have been modified to ensure Trampler accessibility
- A transportation system for those with physical or learning difficulties to access across 175m of soft sand to reach the tide line. This service is available daily by request at the Visitor Centre.

9.10 **Pendine Beach** is managed by Carmarthenshire County Council on behalf of Pendine Community Council and the MOD.

The following facilities and information are provided to visitors in order to make their visit more enjoyable:

- Disabled toilet at the main beach access point, slipway.
- Disabled car parking bays in the top car park at the main slipway.
- Disabled car parking bays in the main car park.
- The main slipway is at a moderate gradient onto usually firm and flat sand.

9.11 At **Gelli Aur Country Park** the following facilities and information are provided:

- Disabled toilet
- Disabled car parking bays.
- Disabled access to cafeteria.
- Disabled access to viewing platform over Deer Park with wider views over the Towy Valley.
- The site is on a steep wooded and parkland slope.

9.12 At **Llyn Llech Owain** Country Park the following facilities are available:

- Disabled toilet at main carpark/cafe
- Disabled toilet at the visitor centre

- Disabled access to the cafe
- Wheel chair available at cafe - no booking required
- Wheel chair accessible picnic tables near the main car park
- 'Access for all' playground
- Free disabled parking with disability badge in main car park
- Disabled parking at visitor centre for access to centre
- Viewpoint outside visitor centre with seating
- Access to ground and 1st floor of Visitor Centre
- 1mile lakeside/bog walk particularly flat and suitable for disability vehicles, wheelchairs or walking frames.

The current improvement programme being implemented at the Country Park (to Sept 2007) includes the following additional features:

- Disabled access to 2 bird hides
- Disabled access to wildlife feeding area and feeding hide
- Additional disabled toilet/s
- Community room/classroom with 'access for all'
- Dedicated disabled parking in main car park
- Stairlift to 2nd floor)

9.13 At the **Millennium Coastal Park**, which is owned and managed by the County Council, the following facilities are provided:

- Disabled toilets at Discovery Centre, North Dock, Llanelli.
- Disabled toilets at Pwll Pavilion, Pwll, Llanelli.
- Disabled toilets on east side of Burry Port Harbour.
- Disabled toilets on west side of Burry Port Harbour.
- Disabled car parking spaces in Bynea, North Dock, Burry Port Harbour (east and west).
- Viewpoint car park, Promenade, North Dock.
- Disabled access for viewpoints at Machynys and Promenade.
- The majority of the MCP's footpaths, cycleways, picnic sites are accessible by wheelchairs. (A problem exists at Loughor Greenway where the cycleway/footpath is fairly rough as it is covered by the sea during spring tides.
- A carriage on the land train has been adapted to carry wheelchair users.
- The MCP has a buddy bicycle for the partially sighted, which is available on request.

9.14 **Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park – Tumble**

- Set within a woodland park of 260 acres
- Level access to car park
- Disabled access around ponds via boardwalk (with passing places) and surfaced paths
- Disabled access from main car park around internal circuit on tarmac /compacted stone surfaces
- Disabled access to 3 picnic areas around the park with associated disabled furniture
- Disabled access to forest school buildings and shelters

9.15 Ynys Dawela Nature Park

- 9.15.1 Has parking space available for disabled visitors and has surfaced paths of a shallow gradient giving access to most of the park.

Interpretation panels are sited at a low level to accommodate wheel chair users. Picnic benches are provided that are suitable for use by wheelchair users.

9.16 Picnic Sites

Operated by the County Council have a range of facilities suitable for disabled visitors, though ground conditions and slopes are limiting factors. Most sites have picnic benches suitable for use by wheelchair users, car park viewpoint areas and seasonal toilet facilities suitable for disabled users. Specific facilities exist at newer sites, such as viewing platform (Penymynydd, Pembrey) and disabled fishing platform (Cenarth).

9.17 County Walks

CCC currently has over thirty promoted County Walks, each of which has its own promotion leaflet containing useful information about the walk, the scenery, and the theme of the walk. Currently seventeen of the leaflets provide information on the nature of the terrain and/or difficulty of the walks. Eight of the more recently produced leaflets contain specific advice about the suitability of the walks for visitors with mobility problems.

- 9.18 As the leaflets are edited and reprinted each one will include a section on the terrain and suitability of the walks with regard to the mixed ability of the clients. Text/information is written with a view to providing information easy to understand for people with learning difficulties and/or children – use of jargon or technical terms etc and complexity of language deliberately avoided. Large print, Welsh and English make it as user friendly as possible – an endeavour to find the right balance between provision of quality information without being simplistic and patronising.

- 9.19 Copies of the leaflets or other publicity material are available in large print. Train links available for some County Walks have been emphasised in promotion, as a series of “Train Walks”.

9.20 Website

A recent addition to the County Council’s Leisure web site (<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/leisure>) provides additional information for disabled visitors on the County Walks, the Millennium Coastal Park and Ynys Dawela Nature Park. It will be improved and added to in the near future. Consideration is also being given to producing Braille information for promoted walks, picnic sites and country parks.

9.21 General principles

- 9.21.1 **“It will not be possible, or appropriate, to make all of the countryside and landscapes fully accessible for everyone. Nonetheless, those organisations with a responsibility for providing access to the outdoors should strive to maximise**

accessibility for as many people as possible. What is reasonable provision will vary in different situations and with the results of future case law”

‘By All Reasonable Means’ Countryside Agency [2005]

9.21.2 Previous studies which have considered the need for access for all (e.g. “Sense & Accessibility” Countryside Agency [2000] & “By All Reasonable Means” Countryside Agency [2005]) have highlighted a number of broad principles to form the basis for action and guidelines for outdoor access improvements.

1. “Access for All” information is crucial and can make the most immediate and effective difference to accessibility and its enjoyment.
2. All interpretation provided should take account of the variety of users.
3. Appropriate access information should be included on websites.
4. Information on routes should be available in multiple formats.
5. All improvements to access should take account of accessibility for all users. Constructed physical barriers need to be eliminated wherever possible e.g. styles, steps. Best practice is based upon the principle of Least Restrictive Access (LRA) which requires that all work must meet the highest possible standards – where these cannot be achieved – eg insufficient funds, lack of landowner consent, practical difficulties) there should be a documented justification for the decision to use a lower standard.
6. Access audits need to be an integral element of site management, with ongoing review of priorities, action plans, strategies and policies.

9.21.3 Those with limited mobility cover a wide range of users, young and old, and their specific needs are variable. In many cases routes with shallow gradients and absence of stiles, steps etc are likely to be an essential requirement. In particular, users are likely to want information on where to go and what to expect on arrival.

9.21.4 Comprehensive information on where disabled or less-able people can access the countryside is relatively limited at present. There is a need for a comprehensive information source providing details of the suitability of all access sites to meet all users needs. This needs to be coordinated across website and other printed material. Access audits and action plans are also required, prepared on a priority basis.

10.0

ASSESSMENT 9

USERS SURVEY

10.1 The most recent information on the users of Carmarthenshire's countryside and rights of way network has been obtained from the Carmarthenshire Citizens Panel for 2005. The Citizens' Panel is a joint initiative between Carmarthenshire County Council, Dyfed - Powys Police and Carmarthenshire Local Health Group.

10.2 The Panel is made up of 1,200 local people who are selected to be representative of the community on a broad range of characteristics such as gender, age and location. One thousand two hundred and fifteen surveys were sent out to Panel members. Six hundred and sixty-five surveys were returned giving an overall response rate of 55%. However, the number of respondents who answered each question varied due to the fact that respondents were selective about what questions they answered.

10.3 RESULTS

Thirteen questions were asked on facilities on the countryside and water areas of Carmarthenshire.

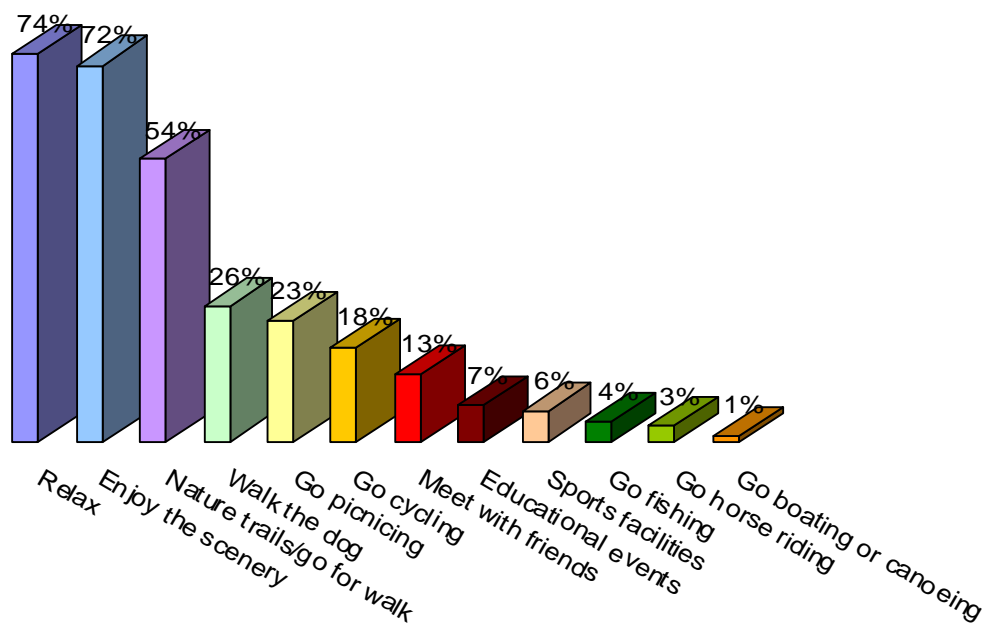
Q. 1 In the last 12 months, how often have you or any of your household visited Carmarthenshire's ...?

(Question sample size 500)

	Most days	Every week	Every month	Every 2-3 months	Less often or never
Footpaths and	13%	20%	13%	16%	38%
Country Parks	2%	9%	21%	32%	36%
Millennium Coastal	3%	12%	16%	26%	43%
Beaches	5%	10%	21%	34%	30%
Nature Reserves	1%	3%	7%	26%	62%
Woodland areas	4%	11%	12%	27%	46%
Lakes and water areas	3%	7%	15%	32%	43%
Picnic areas	0%	4%	9%	22%	65%
Cycle ways	3%	6%	10%	12%	69%
Other countryside	7%	11%	11%	24%	47%

10.4 From the table above, 46% of the public make regular monthly use of ROW, 65% Country Parks, 57% Millenium Coastal Park, 70% beaches, 54% woodland areas, 57% Lakes, 35% Picnic Areas, 31% cycleways, and 38% nature reserves. Where a relatively high percentage of the population never use those facilities, or use them very rarely further research is required in order to establish the main reasons for their non participation.

Q. 2 For what reasons do you normally visit these areas?
(Question sample size 611)



(This question had a multiple tick option therefore the percentages will not tally to 100%)

10.5 As expected the overwhelming majority (74%) of those who visited these areas did so to relax. On this basis, walking and enjoying the scenery as they walked was the most important reason for visiting the countryside and water areas.

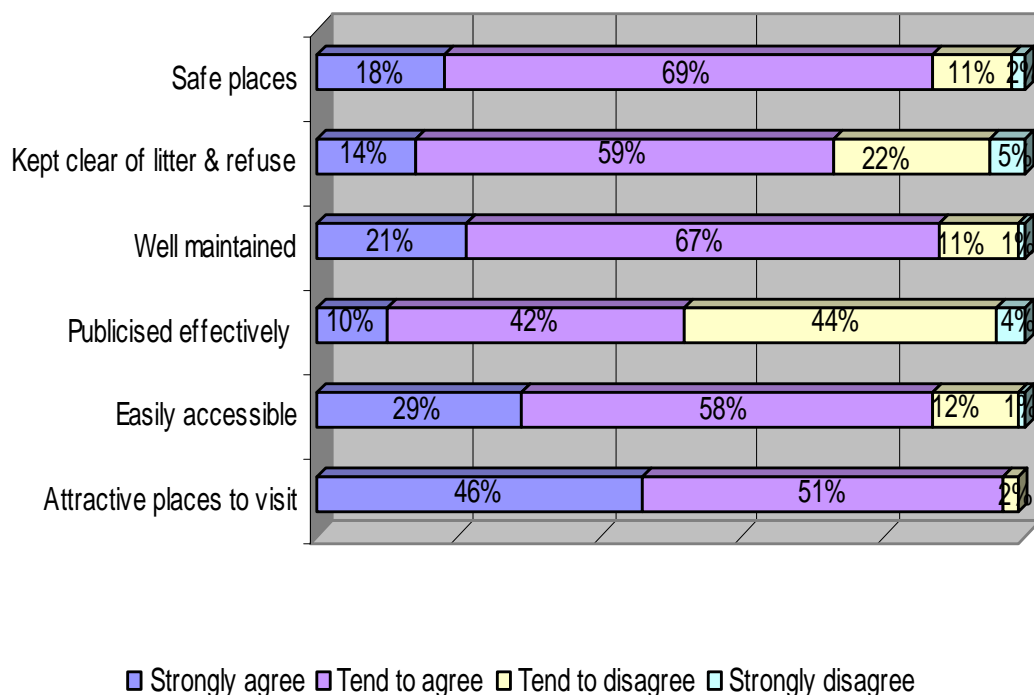
Q. 3 For those areas visited in the last 12 months, how good or poor were they?

(Question sample size 326)

	Very good	Fairly good	Fairly poor	Very poor
Footpaths and bridleways	19%	71%	9%	1%
Country Parks	47%	52%	1%	0%
Millennium Coastal Park	58%	40%	1%	0%
Beaches	36%	59%	4%	0%
Nature Reserves	37%	62%	1%	1%
Woodland areas	35%	62%	2%	1%
Lakes and water areas	41%	55%	2%	2%
Picnic areas	23%	65%	11%	1%
Cycle ways	42%	54%	4%	0%
Other countryside areas	26%	71%	2%	1%

10.6 Clearly there many areas where satisfaction is very high (MCP/Country Parks/Cycleways/Lakes and water areas), with general levels of satisfaction at 90%+. Picnic areas and ROW stand out as being the most unsatisfactory, but in the case of ROW the figures do not entirely tally with the number of paths closed to the public. It may be realistic to conclude that the public's satisfaction with those paths available to them is relative high but that the range of routes available is restricted.

Q. 4 Would you agree or disagree that Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas are generally ...?
 (Question sample size 559)



10.7 The majority of consultees tended to agree with each of the options given, except for Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas being effectively publicised, where a substantial proportion 'tended to disagree' (44%). Promotion and publicity will be referred to in the assessment of Carmarthenshire's promotion of the countryside and ROW network. 69% tended to agree that they were safe places, 67% felt they were well maintained and 59% felt they were kept clear of litter & refuse. 58% believed that they were easily accessible and 51% felt they were attractive places to visit.

Q. 5 In the last 12 months, which areas of this type have you visited most frequently in Carmarthenshire?

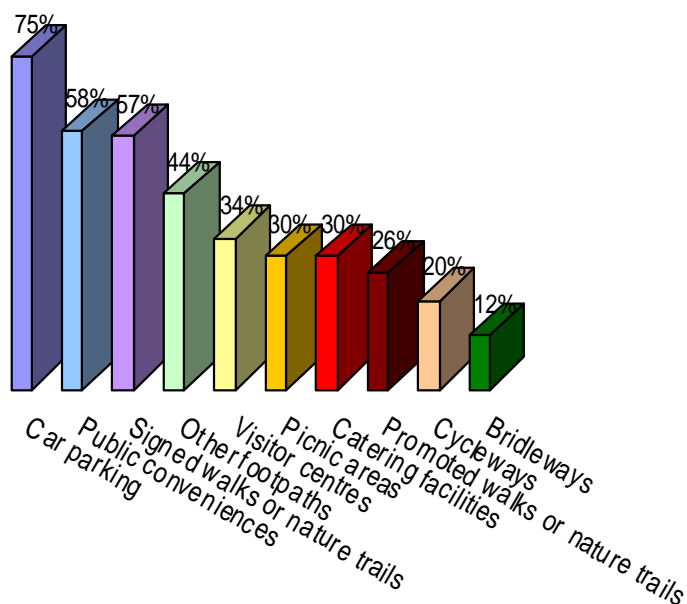
(Question sample size 452)

10.8 The first 15 parks/areas visited most frequently by consultees are as follows, placed in order of precedence with the number of consultees who chose them:

➤ Millennium Coastal Park	86	
➤ Pembrey Country Park	51	
➤ Beaches	37	
➤ Footpaths	32	
➤ Country Parks		24
➤ Sandy Water Park	22	
➤ Llyn Llech Owain	20	
➤ Llansteffan		19
➤ Lakes/rivers/reservoirs	17	
➤ Woodlands areas	16	
➤ Countryside		15
➤ None		10
➤ Llanelli	8	
➤ Gelli Aur	6	
➤ Various	43	

Q. 6 Thinking about Carmarthenshire’s countryside and water areas, which facilities have you used in the last 12 months?

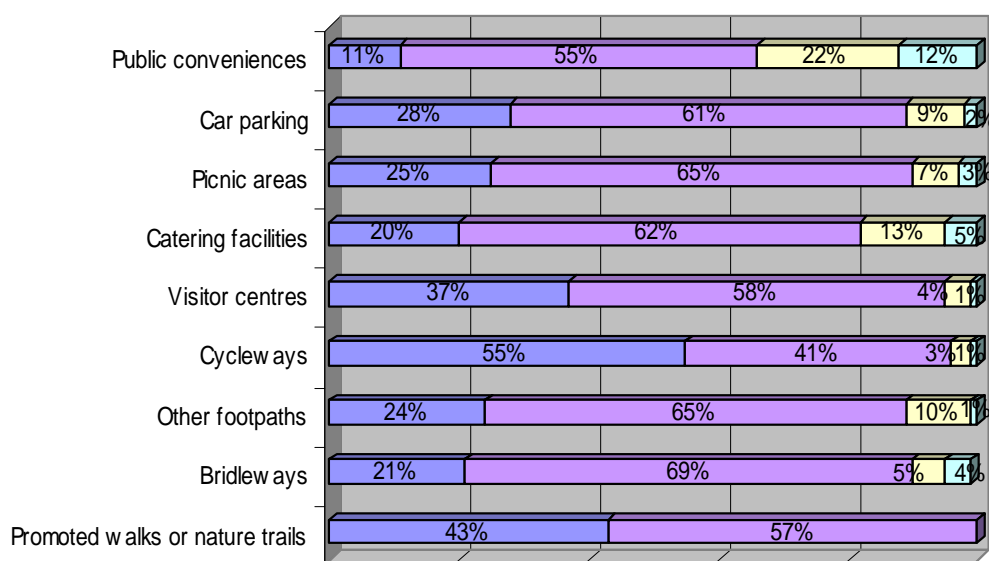
(Question sample size 576)



10.9 The most used facility (75%) by the 48% who visited Carmarthenshire’s countryside and water areas at least once within the last twelve months were the car parks. This is understandable due to the nature of many facilities and the levels of car ownership in the County. The public transport network also puts a heavy reliance by the public on private vehicles to access the sites. The figures do reflect the importance in Carmarthenshire of walking to a very substantial proportion of the population, as evidenced by other national surveys.

Q. 7 For those facilities used, how good or poor were they?

(Question sample size 255)



■ Very good ■ Fairly good ■ Fairly poor ■ Very poor

Public conveniences, car parking, and catering are expected but the reference to 11% other footpaths being relatively poor is noteworthy. The fact that bridleways were generally seen as 90% “good” tends to mask the fact that there are relatively few in the County, but could indicate that the priority given by CCC to these areas may be having some effect.

Q. 8 If you feel that any of the facilities you have used are poor, please indicate in which area they are poor and in what ways you feel they could be improved?

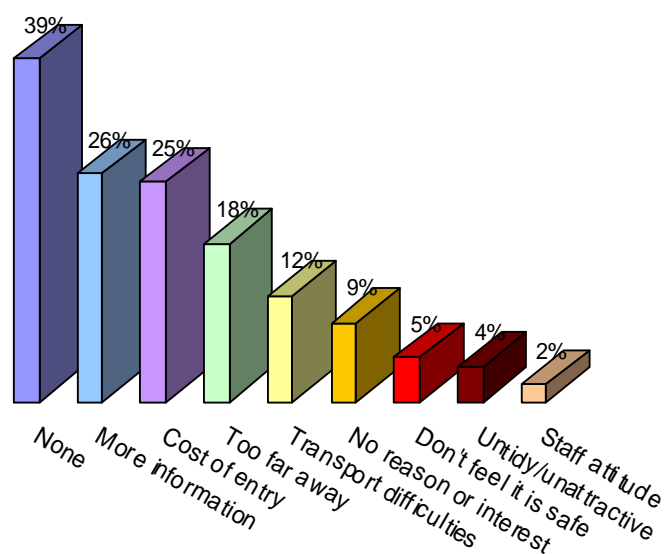
(Question sample size 182)

10.11 Of the 182 consultees who responded to this question, 58(32%) believed that facilities in general needed to be better maintained and cleaner; a certain number highlighted public toilets, 22(12%) referred to car parking facilities and 33(18%) gave a variety of replies including need for more disabled parking. 18(10%) of the respondents felt that footpaths and bridleways needed more attention as they found they were often overgrown or blocked, 16(9%) believed that more public conveniences were required

and a further 16(9%) felt that the catering facilities available lacked variety and were not well maintained or cleaned. In some cases members also felt they were very costly. 8 (4%) respondents felt that better access to facilities was required, both in general and for those with disabilities, 6(3%) considered better signposting was needed and the remaining 5(3%) considered that more publicity, better information and events were also required.

Q. 9 What aspects, if any, discourage you from visiting Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas?

(Question sample size 559)

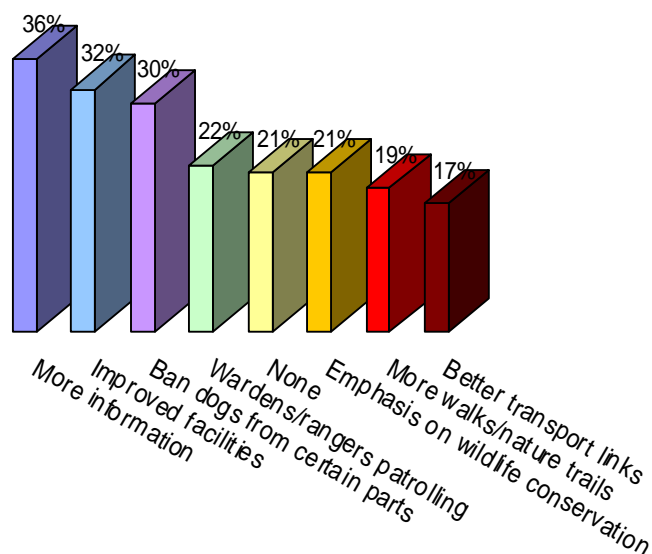


(This question had a multiple tick option therefore the percentages will not tally to 100%)

10.12 References to need for more information about these areas, the cost of entry and distance/transport difficulties were the most significant issues.

Q. 10 What, if anything, would encourage you to visit Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas more often?

(Question sample size 573)

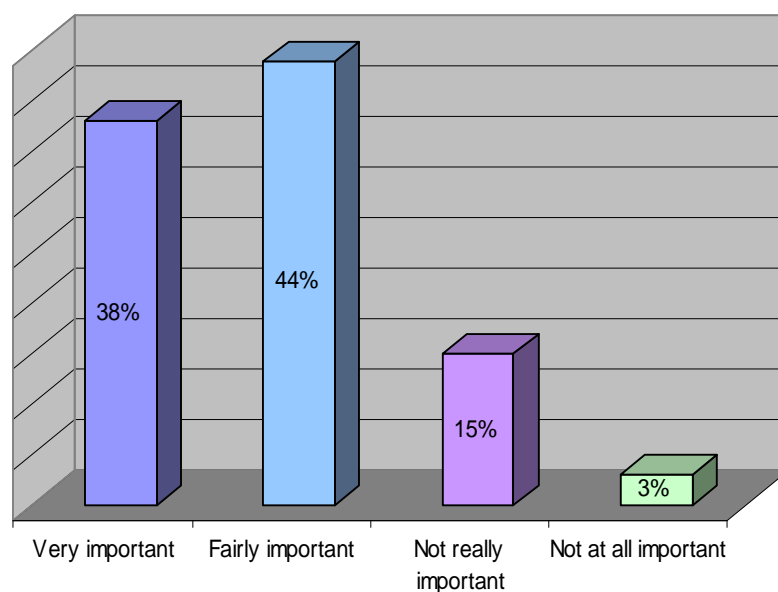


10.13 36% of members said they would be encouraged to visit Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas if more information was provided; facilities improvement and dogs also elicited large numbers.

10.14 From the analysis, it is evident that the main areas of improvement are in more information on what was already available, improved facilities and better control of dogs. Another area of concern of the respondents is the need to provide more Rangers/Wardens patrolling the countryside areas. This evidence has been borne out in a previous survey carried out by the former Countryside Commission where it was established that in general, the urban/town dweller would feel safer knowing that an area is patrolled. While this occurs at specific sites, in the wider countryside it would not be feasible.

Q. 11 In general, how important are Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas to you and your household?

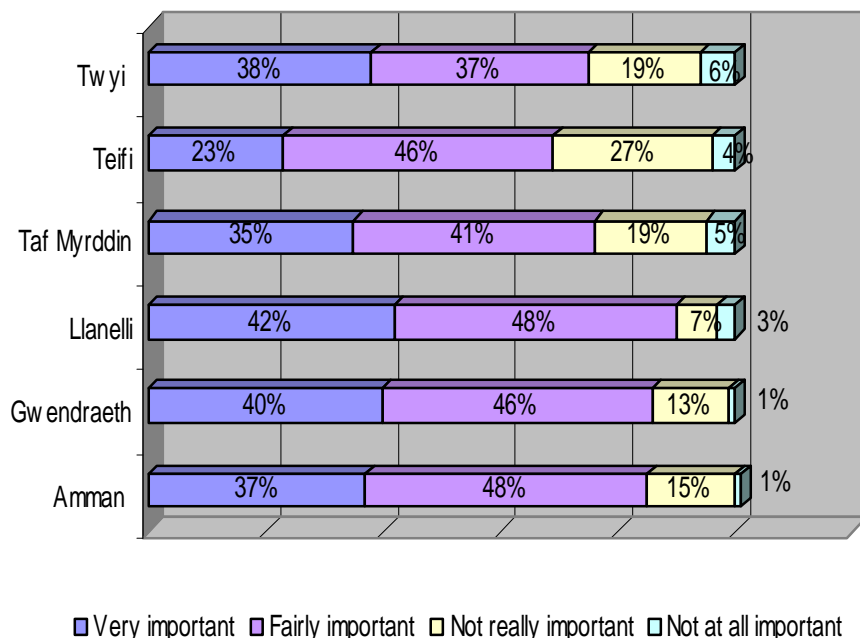
(Question sample size 638)



10.15 The vast majority of members (82%) believed that Carmarthenshire’s countryside and water areas were important to them and their households, figures which certainly justify financial investment into countryside access facilities.

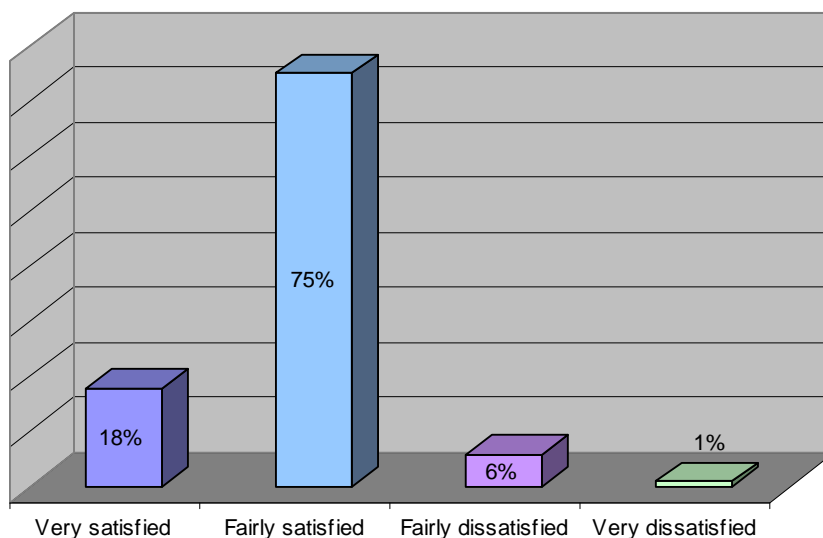
10.16 The graph below takes the different geographical areas into consideration with Panel Members in Llanelli showing highest results with less importance given by Teifi area residents, which may well be a reflection of the respective levels of provision in those areas.

- Llanelli - 90%
- Gwendraeth - 86%
- Amman - 85%
- Taf Myrddin - 76%
- Tywi - 75%
- Teifi - 69%



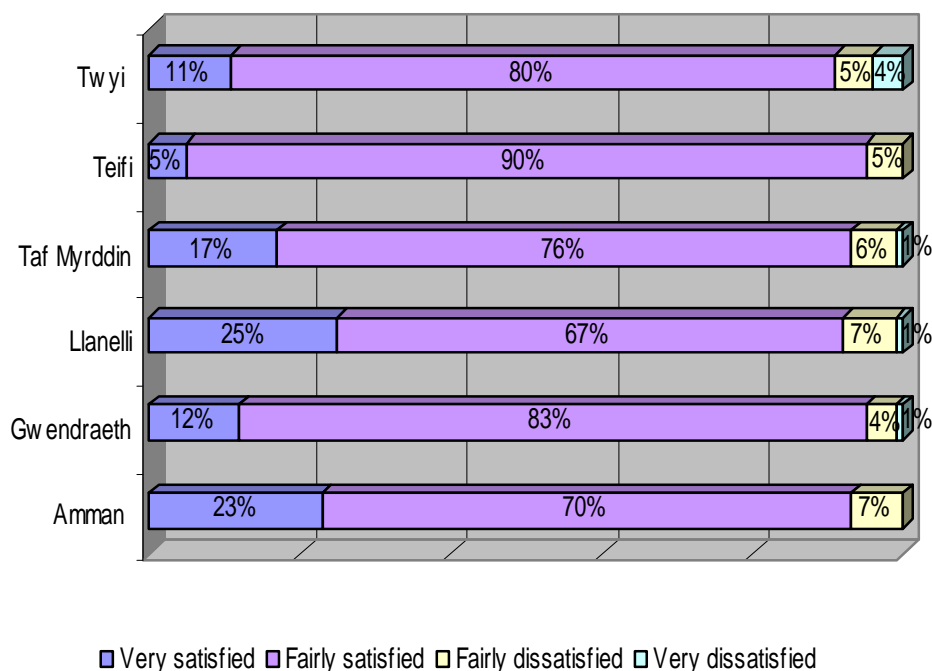
Q. 12 In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with Carmarthenshire County Council's management of their countryside and water areas?

(Question sample size 602)



10.17 93% satisfaction levels with the Council's management of their countryside and water areas is extremely high. This pattern is repeated in all parts of the County - taking the different geographical areas into consideration we can see that members from all areas show high satisfaction.

- Gwendraeth - 95%
- Teifi - 95%
- Amman - 93%
- Taf Myrddin - 93%
- Llanelli - 92%
- Tywi - 91%



Q. 13 Do you have any further comments that you would like to make about Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas?

(Question sample size 94)

10.18 Of the 94 consultees who responded to this question, 18 (19%) believed that Carmarthenshire's countryside and water areas should be promoted and developed to a greater extent - areas such as Pwll fishing ponds, Tywi riverside and Kidwelly Quay were mentioned. 11 (12%) felt that more litter bins and better maintenance was needed . 9 (9.5%) members felt that more and improved facilities were required, while 9 (9.5%) highlighted car parking costs and 7 (7%) referred to dogs. 5 (5%) respondents believed that better facilities and access was required for those with disabilities, a further 5 (5%) felt that more events and activities for all ages were needed and the remaining 3 (3%) felt that more catering facilities should be provided.

10.19 The main comments weren't additional to previous comments, but duplication of comments made elsewhere in the survey, further promotion and development of the countryside and water areas being the main comment. For the first time in the survey provision of better access for the disabled and for all ages was mentioned. This is an area where targeted research at the focus groups of the disabled and elderly is required.

10.20 NEEDS OF OTHER USERS

10.21 Recreational Users

Whilst the Citizens Panel Survey reveals valuable information on the needs of able bodied walkers, it does not provide information on the needs of the blind, partially sighted, or those with mobility problems, and perhaps does not reflect the detailed issues faced by cyclists, horse riders, carriage drivers and off road vehicle users. It is recommended that focus groups representing the interests of these types of users should be specifically targeted to obtain the required information on their needs and perceptions of the countryside and the ROW network.

10.22 Non Recreational Users

The Citizens Panel survey did not differentiate between recreational and non recreational use of the ROW and cycle networks. However, assumptions can be made that the respondents' answers were in the context of their recreational use. Local Authorities have a duty to follow sustainable development principles in exercising their duty with regard to ROWIPs and their implementation. Further separate consideration is therefore required in relation to the demand for safer routes to school and places of work, which could be achieved through the upgrading of the ROW network, particularly the urban fringe of communities.

11.0

ASSESSMENT 10

COST OF MANAGING THE NETWORK

11.1 Current Budgets and CROW Act Funding

11.1.1 As discussed above the rights of way system has since the 1950's been relatively under-resourced and as a result the network is in need of substantial improvement and ongoing maintenance if it is to fulfil its potential for the public to use and enjoy. However since 2002-3 there has been a noticeable increase in the resources made available, both from WAG, the County Council and its grant partners.

11.1.2 The CROW Act has resulted in additional powers and responsibilities for the County Council (notably for ROWIP's, Open Country and the Local Access Forum (LAF)) but some additional base revenue resources were provided via the WAG. The requirements of the legislation involved a phased introduction of CROW responsibilities with the LAF having been formed in 2002, the ROWIP initial preparations during 2003-4 and the Open Country provisions by 2005. In total, £200,000 was allocated to Carmarthenshire (see Appendix 5) and of that sum £70,000 was made available to the Rights of Way budget in 2002/03 and a further £70,000 (total £140,000) within the 2003/04 budget. This funding has been enhanced by County Council funding of £60k countryside access funds, available following the amalgamation of the rights of way function into the Leisure Division's Parks & Countryside Unit in Feb 2003. Current revenue budgets for 05-6 and 06-7 are shown in Appendix 6.

11.1.3 In addition, the County Council has allocated £400k of capital funds for the 3-year period to 2006-7. This equated to 140k in 2004-5 and 130k pa in each of the two subsequent years. These funds are supplemented by grants sought for improvement programmes from EC and other sources which amount to more than 1.1m since 2001/2.

11.1.4 Total funding in Carmarthenshire since 2001-2 is estimated at £5.18m of which 1.34m is CROW Act funding. The attached table (Appendix 7) provides details.

11.1.5 These additional resources have been focussed upon:

- The appointment of Area Rangers dealing with improvement on the ground of ROW and Open Access issues. In Nov 2003 new posts of Countryside Rangers (4) were appointed to cover the County. The aim was to get action on the ground to clear and improve priority routes.
- Integrated with existing volunteer workforces to provide a substantial, cost-effective, value for money means of improving the condition of rights of way. The Countryside Recreation Unit makes very substantial use of voluntary labour forces, through such organisations as the Ramblers Association, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV-Cymru), United Nations Association - Exchange, Princes Trust, Universities and Colleges and New Deal-Environmental Taskforce. Work camps are organised over 40+ weeks of the year.
- A new Senior Officer to deal with Def Map/ROWIP/LAF matters.

- Improvements to the GIS system (CAMS) referred to above.
- Continuing to seek grants to enhance the improvement programme.
- Improved maintenance programmes for the long term in conjunction with local Community Councils and others.
- Better promotion of routes improved.

11.1.6 Nevertheless, as noted above there are still substantial improvements to be made in the network (paths, signposting etc) and to reduce backlogs of orders and other work in the County. The following section provides an analysis of likely long term costs.

11.2 Full Cost of Managing the Network.

11.2.1 ExeGesIS, a consultancy firm who were employed by the CCW to carry out the “Wales Rights of Way Condition Survey 2002”, estimated in May 2003 in their report to CCW that the upgrading of the Welsh rights of way network to remove all unsatisfactory furniture and obstructions would cost £25.886m. (£779 per km.) Annual maintenance costs for keeping this all-Wales system in good condition for the future would cost £8.37m pa (252 per km.). They justified this investment by quoting Wales Tourist Board figures, which estimated the economic value of the path network to Wales as £548 million.

11.2.2 Applying these figures to Carmarthenshire (7.06% of Wales system) , the 2,236 km of paths would (at 02-3 prices) need some £1.8m. to open up the whole of the network and a further £590k pa per annum to maintain the network into the future. Some of the upgrading work is to an extent covered in the improvements carried out to date within Carmarthenshire - it is perhaps reasonable to assume that grants for the future will enable continued progress to be made, allied to revenue and capital inputs as match funding.

11.2.3 The long term maintenance figure however, does not take account of the extra staff that would be required in order to carry out all the functions related to rights of way/access and the upkeep and continual review of the Definitive Map. Therefore, an additional sum (perhaps min.10-15%) would need to be added to the cost for a more realistic figure and a further 10%-12% to bring figures to 05-6 levels. On this basis long term maintenance needs would be in the region of 780k pa (06-7 prices) if 100% of the network was open. In comparison, the current budget for Rights of Way in 2006-7 is close to 375k (see Appendix 6), leaving a long term additional funding gap of £400k. This sum would also cover the additional needs for staff on Lost Ways, IT development and Definitive map issues.

11.2.4 This is not an issue facing Carmarthenshire alone and many, if not all, Welsh local authorities are in a similar position. WAG have been advised on the likely deficit as part of the CROW and related expenditure monitoring. While the County Council has displayed its current commitment to improving the rights of way network and other related access issues it is considered that fundamental action at the national level will be required if the long term resourcing of maintenance in particular is to be resolved.

11.2.5 This issue has also been highlighted by the County Council’s Internal Audit as a particular concern in a report on Countryside Access. It states that given the statutory nature of the service, it is essential that the needs identified in the agreed Right of Way Improvement Plan are met or the Authority may be subject to some criticism or legal challenge. While current funding ensures short-term aims can be achieved, long-term

aims require additional funding. In terms of actions it concludes that WAG need to be reminded of the need for adequate maintenance funding for rights of way, in conjunction with partners in other Welsh Counties, and that this funding issue is also raised through the County Council's Strategic Asset Team.

11.3 Comparison with an English Local Authority with a similar sized Network

Cheshire County Council is one of the top performing Authorities in England with regard to the management and maintenance of their PROW network. They have approximately 3000km. of rights of way compared to Carmarthen's 2236km. Cheshire were allocated a revenue budget in 2004-05 of £900,000 and employed twenty four full time rights of way staff. Because of this level of resource provision, Cheshire were able to achieve 79% of its network open and easy to use.

11.4 Conclusion

The Rights of Way (RoW) network in Carmarthenshire is substantial and offers great opportunities for open air recreation, enjoying the countryside and its wildlife and heritage as well as providing major benefits to the economy of the County. Despite recent improvements, all the evidence shows that the network is in a relatively poor condition. This is a long-standing issue – it was made worse by the Foot & Mouth restrictions but that crisis also highlighted the public loss that resulted when access to the countryside was so heavily constrained. Walking, horse riding, cycling and all other forms of outdoor recreation are vitally important for tourism and for the good health of our communities – it has the capacity to add greatly to the quality of life enjoyed in Carmarthenshire. Over the longer term we need to ensure with partners that adequate funding is in place for the maintenance of this important resource for residents and visitors.

APPENDIX 1

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CAMS)

Link Details

Route Code:	3/9/1	Status:	Footpath
Community:	Betws	Name:	
Operational Status:		Priority:	Medium
Maintained By:		Grid Reference:	SN634111
Length:	885 m		

Furniture

Furniture Code:	3/16	Type:	Gate/Kissing/Metal
Furniture Code:	3/17	Type:	Gate/<1.2m /Wood
Furniture Code:	3/18	Type:	Sign not road/Waymark Disc
Furniture Code:	3/19	Type:	Gate/Other
Furniture Code:	3/20	Type:	Gate/Kissing/Metal
Furniture Code:	3/21	Type:	Sign not road/Waymark Disc
Furniture Code:	3/22	Type:	Sign not road/Waymark Disc
Furniture Code:	3/23	Type:	Steps/Undefined
Furniture Code:	3/24	Type:	Gate/> 2m /Metal

Find Results

- 50/24/1 Footpath
 - 50/375 Gate/Other
 - 01063: Gate/Repair
 - 50/376 Gate/Other
 - 01064: Gate/Replace
 - 50/377 Gate/Other
 - 00611: Cross path/Hedge
 - 00612: Missing/Sign/Roadside

Link Details

Route Code:	50/24/1	Status:	Footpath
Community:	Llanfihangel Aberbythych	Name:	
Operational Status:		Priority:	
Maintained By:		Grid Reference:	SN583166
Length:	410 m		

Issues

Date Logged:	31 August 2002
Problem:	Cross path/HedgeProblem found during CCW 2002 5% Sample Survey. Problem renders path inconvenient.
Date Logged:	31 August 2002
Problem:	Missing/Sign/RoadsideProblem found during CCW 2002 5% Sample Survey. Problem renders path inconvenient.

Furniture

Furniture Code:	50/375	Type:	Gate/Other
Furniture Code:	50/376	Type:	Gate/Other
Furniture Code:	50/377	Type:	Gate/Other

Surfaces

APPENDIX 2

Powers of Town & Community Councils – Rights of Way

DESCRIPTION OF POWERS	LEGISLATION
To undertake the maintenance of any footpath or bridleway.	Highways Act 1980 ss 43 and 50
To erect lighting on any footpath or bridleway.	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
To erect notices on footpaths and bridleways warning of local dangers.	Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 s72
To prosecute anyone who wilfully obstructs the free passage along any highway.	Highways Act 1980 s137
To prosecute an occupier who fails to ensure that crops do not inconvenience users of footpaths, bridleways and unmetalled carriageways.	Highways Act 1980 s137A
To prosecute if a footpath or bridleway has been lawfully ploughed or disturbed, but not restored, or if any highway has been unlawfully ploughed or disturbed.	Highways Act 1980 ss131A and 134
To insist that a particular footpath, bridleway or byway should be signposted where it meets a metalled road.	Countryside Act 1968 s27
To signpost and waymark footpaths, bridleways and byways on behalf of, and with the consent of, the highway authority.	Countryside Act 1968 s27
To create new footpaths and bridleways by agreement with the landowner over land in their own and adjoining parishes or communities.	Highways Act 1980 s30
To make representations to the highway authority that a highway has been unlawfully stopped up or obstructed. The authority must act unless satisfied that the representations are incorrect.	Highways Act 1980 s130(6)
To hold for public inspection a copy of the definitive map for the parish or community, and copies of orders made to modify it.	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 s57(5)
To veto a proposal by a highway to apply to a magistrates' court for an order stopping-up or diverting a highway.	Highways Act 1980 s116
To be consulted by a surveying authority on every application for a definitive map modification order.	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 14
To be consulted by a surveying authority before a definitive map modification or reclassification order is made.	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 15
To object to a public path order or a definitive map modification or reclassification order. A copy of every such order, both when made and when confirmed, must be served upon the council.	Highways Act 1980 Schedule 6 para 1(3)(b)(ii), Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 15 para 3(2)(b)(ii) and Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Schedule 14 para 1(2)(b)(ii)

COUNTRYSIDE RANGER SERVICE

ALL ROUTES BY FINANCIAL YEAR

2003~2004

November 2003 - March 2004

Grant Aided Programme	Improvement Programme
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2004~2005

April 2004 - March 2005

Grant Aided Programme	Improvement Programme
-----------------------	-----------------------

2005~2006

April 2005 - March 2006

Grant Aided Programme	Improvement Programme
-----------------------	-----------------------

ALL TOTALS

BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC
BRIDLEWAY
FOOTPATH
PERMISSIVE ROUTE
UNCLASSIFIED ROUTE
OTHER ROUTE / COUNTY WALK

3	0
5	2
45	1
0	0
1	0
1	0

10	0
7	1
97	18
1	0
1	0
0	1

0	1
0	2
64	63
0	1
3	0
1	5

14
17
288
2
5
8

TOTALS WITHIN EACH FINANCIAL YEAR

55	3
----	---

116	20
-----	----

68	72
----	----

334

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58	
TOTAL ROUTES	
44.0 km	27.3 miles
LENGTH IMPROVED	

136	
TOTAL ROUTES	
121.1 km	75.3 miles
LENGTH IMPROVED	

140	
TOTAL ROUTES	
151.5k m	94.1 miles
LENGTH IMPROVED	

334
TOTAL ROUTES
16.6KM / 196.7 MILES
LENGTH IMPROVED

APPENDIX 4

COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SCHEMES PARTNERSHIP/PROJECT INVOLVEMENT APRIL 1996 – MARCH 2006

KEY PLAYERS OVER THE 10 YEARS

(with apologies for any omissions)

Adfywio
Aman & Loughor Rivers Heritage Committee
Aman Valley Enterprise
Aman Youth Resource Centre
Ammanford Comprehensive School
Antur Cwm Taf and Tywi
Antur Teifi
Apostolic Church- Penygroes
Betws Community Council
British Heart Foundation
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers – BTCV *CYMRU*
Bronwydd Community Council
Bronwydd Welfare Hall
Brownies – Drefach Group
C.C.C. – 1Fund Grant Programme
C.C.C. - Community Development
C.C.C. - Rural Grant Programme
C.C.C.- Community Chest Grant Programme
C.C.C. Regeneration (Community Bureau)
C.C.T.A – Graig Campus
Cambria Archaeology (part of Dyfed Archaeological Trust)
Carmarthen Ramblers
Carmarthenshire County Council Youth Services – Weekly
Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum
Carmarthenshire Training
Carmarthenshire Walks & Trails group
Ceredigion County Council
Cilycwm Community Council
Coleg Elidyr – Llangadog & Rhandirmwyn
Coleg Y Drindod - Carmarthen
Communities First
Countryside Council for Wales
Cross Hands Special Unit
Crown Estate
Cwmaman Town Council
Duke of Edinburgh Awards
Employment Service
Enfys – New Opportunities Fund (Big Lottery)
Environment Agency
Environment Wales
Forest Schools
Forestry Commission
Garnant Golf Club
Garnant Primary School
Glanaman Primary School
Gorslas Community Council
Gwendraeth Autistic Unit
Gwendraeth Comprehensive

Heritage Lottery
Jobforce *WALES*
Laugharne Community Association
Laugharne Corporation
Laugharne Township Comm. Council
Llanddowror Community Council
Llandovery Scout Group
Llandovery Town Council
Llandybie Community Council
Llandysul Paddlers – Canoe Centre, Pontweli, Llandyssul
Llandysul Town Council
Llanedi Community Council
Llanelli Ramblers
Llanelli Town Council
Llanelli Young Offenders
Llanfihangel A'r Arth Community Council
Llangain Community Council
Llangain Parochial Church
Llangeler Community Council
Llangendeirne Community Council
Llangennech Community Council
Llannon Community Council
Llanpumsaint & District Welfare Committee
Llanpumsaint Community Council
Llansteffan Community Council
Llansteffan Historical Society
Llwynhendy Special Unit
Llyn Llech Owain Country Park
Meidrim Community Association
Meidrim Community Council
Meidrim Welfare Committee
Meinciau Sports & Recreation Centre
Mencap
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth
Morfa Bay Outdoor Centre - Pendine
Mr. Tom Cowcher- Llandysul Youth Leader
National Botanic Gardens of Wales
National Trust – Dolaucothi Estate
New Deal – Environmental Taskforce
Newchurch Community Council
Pembrey Country Park
Pendine Community Council
Pontweli Ymlaen – Part of Antur Teifi
Pontyates Miners Welfare Hall Committee
Pontyates Womens Institute
Prince's Trust - CYMRU
Quarter Bach Community Council
Queen Elizabeth Cambria School, Carmarthen
Railtrack South-Western
Saron Welfare Committee
Sports Council Wales
St. Clears Town Council
Sustrans
Swansea Bay Orienteering Club
Symud Ymlaen
The Big Lottery

The Prince's Trust – *Volunteers (Llanelli)*
The Princes' Trust - BRO
Trimsaran Community Council
Tumble Primary School
Tycroes Fach Residents Association
United Nations Association (Wales) – *UNA Exchange*
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
UWIC – University of Wales Institute – Cardiff
Wales Tourist Board
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh Centre for International Affairs
Welsh Development Agency
West Wales European Centre
West Wales TEC
Woodland Trust
Youth Resource - Cwmaman
Youth Restart Project – Aman Valley (Youth Resource Centre)
Ysgol Gynradd Nantgaredig
Ysgol Parcyrhun
Ysgol Y Bedol, Garnant
Ysgol Y Dderwen – Caerfyrddin

APPENDIX 5

COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000 Financial allocation by Local Authority to the CROW Act

Authority	CROW ACT Funding		
	Assembly Allocation	Actual 2003/4 Spend (inc. % of allocation)	Actual 2004/05 Spend (inc. % of allocation)
		(£)	(£)
Anglesey	135,000	0*	0*
Blaenau Gwent	31,000	7,111 22.94%	32,666 105.37%
Bridgend	64,000	66,858 104.47%	74,889 117.01%
Caerphilly	76,000	83,182 109.45%	96,907 127.51%
Cardiff	125,000	139,010 111.21%	165,725 132.58%
Carmarthenshire	200,000	224,000 112.00%	224,000 112.00%
Ceredigion	146,000	162,000 110.96%	162,000 110.96%
Conwy	93,000	50,500 54.30%	52,500 56.45%
Denbighshire	124,000	121,476 97.96%	121,476 97.96%
Flintshire	95,000	310,000 326.32%	358,000 376.84%
Gwynedd	151,000	93,288 61.78%	170,992 113.24%
Merthyr Tydfil	25,000	36,000 144.00%	36,000 144.00%
Monmouthshire	111,000	78,415 70.64%	87,709 79.02%
Neath Port Talbot	75,000	87,000 116.00%	93,500 124.67%
Newport	61,000	0*	0*
Pembrokeshire	116,000	365,000 314.66%	370,000 318.97%
Powys	326,000	341,000 104.60%	342,000 104.91%
Rhondda Cynon Taff	105,000	115,000 109.52%	12,700 12.10%
Swansea	159,000	29,000 18.24%	65,000 40.88%
Torfaen	39,000	23,000 58.97%	28,000 71.79%
Vale of Glamorgan	65,000	96,100 147.85%	111,500 171.54%
Wrexham	77,000	87,000 112.99%	89,000 115.58%
TOTALS	2,399,000	2,514,940 104.83%	2,694,564 112.32%

Extra money has been awarded by the Countryside Council for Wales to those local authorities who have taken part in the ROWIP officer pilot scheme or the access infrastructure improvement scheme. These monies have not been included in the figures above.

*Unable to disaggregate from other countryside access expenditure

APPENDIX 6
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY 2006-07 MAINTENANCE BUDGET

account	2006- 2007 Budget
0231 PAY A.P.T.C CATEGORY A	170,430
0331 N I A.P.T.C CATEGORY A	12,220
0431 SUP A.P.T.C CATEGORY A	17,192
2099 CURRENT SERVICE COST	7,312
3020 STAFF RECRUITMENT EXPENSES	1,020
3035 E'EE RELATED INSURANCE PREMIUM	1,480
3042 TRAINING OF STAFF	2,040
4320 DIESEL	1,913
4321 PETROL	9,225
4365 FBB-RECHARGES TO TRANSPORT HOLDING A/C	510
4405 RECHARGES - PLANT/VEHICLES	1,856
4512 OP LEASE-TRANSPORT-DEP.CONT.	20,400
4702 CAR ALL-OP.STAFF-NON TAXABLE	4,996
4801 VEHICLE RELATED INSURANCE PREMIUMS	2,141
4940 ADMINISTRATIVE & OFFICE EQUIPMENT	510
4948 OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS	44,269
5201 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING/UNIFORMS	2,040
5303 OTHER PRINTING	765
5311 STATIONERY-GENERAL	765
5324 REFERENCE BOOKS & PERIODIC LITERATURE	255
5402 OTHER FEES	6,630
5408 LEGAL FEES AND COSTS	563
5510 TELEPHONE/FAX ETC. RENTAL CALLS	946
5611 CONFERENCE/SEMINAR EXPENSES	765
5701 SUBSCRIPTIONS	102
5811 ADVERTISING (OTHER THAN STAFF)	17,300
6201 PRIVATE CONTRACTORS - GENERAL	66,100
7112 CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,440
7113 FINANCE DIRECTORATE	4,422
7114 LEGAL & ADMINISTRATION	10,349
7116 HUMAN RESOURCES	6,395
7136 TELEPHONE RECHARGE	2,371
7140 COMPUTER RECHARGE	4,245
7173 DIVISIONAL MNGT RECHARGE	11,750
7202 CAPITAL ASSET CHARGE	85,000
8559 FEES & COSTS RECOVERABLE	-11,588
8843 DEMOCRATIC REPR & MNGT	-10,452
	497,677

APPENDIX 7

CROW ALLOCATIONS

Countryside Access/CROW Act Funding								
Carmarthenshire County Council								
Financial Year	Base Budget for RoW	Base Access Budget for C'side Section Exc Additional Funding	Additional CROW Funds	Additional Countryside Access Funding C.C.C.	Capital Funds C.C.C.	Match funds for RoW/ access work	Total CCC Funding	Total CROW Funds
2001/2	90856	224,525	£0	£60,000	£0	£156,155	£531,536	£224,000
2002/3	177928	241803	£70,000	£60,000	£0	£277,238	£826,969	£224,000
2003/4	145368	278386	£140,000	£60,000	£0	£340,100	£963,854	£224,000
2004/5	211513	282090	£140,000	£60,000	£140,000	£191,500	£1,025,103	£224,000
2005/6 (est @04-5 prices)	211513	282090	£140,000	£60,000	£130,000	£191,500	£1,015,103	£224,000
2006/7 (est @04-5 prices)	211513	282090	£140,000	£60,000	£130,000	n/a	£823,603	£224,000
TOTAL	1,048,691	1,590,984	630,000	360,000	400,000	1,156,493	5,186,168	1,344,000

n.b the above figures exclude Countryside funds for Country Parks, golf courses, ski slope, motor sport centre.

