

Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme Case Studies 2014-2015.

This report highlights examples of the types of work that the funding Programme made possible during 2014-15, the seventh year of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme

It is a compilation of the examples provided by the authorities and has been structured to reflect and emphasise the key points and characteristics of the work that was undertaken.

It accompanies the *Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme End of Year Outputs Report*.



On the ground...

Most of the funding (£760,505 or 76%) was used to make practical improvements to existing access. Here are some examples of work from across Wales:

North Wales: Gwynedd:

Public Footpath 12, Buan

Following numerous complaints and requests for assistance from landowners works of replacing a total of 11 old ladder stiles (some completely rotten) along the whole length of the path with new latch or kissing gates. The path serves as part of a useful north/south link from the Nefyn area in the north to Garnfadryn in the south.

Before:



After:



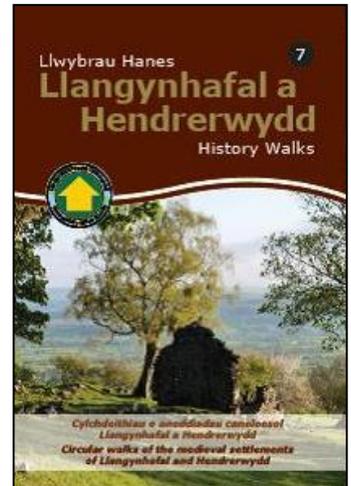
On the ground...

North Wales: Denbighshire

Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd Community Miles

The ethos behind the Community Miles project is to get the local community and the local authority working in partnership to improve and promote access to the rights of way network within the community. The Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd History Walk, part of the Community Miles series was launched by Clwyd West Welsh Assembly Member Darren Millar on the June 13th 2014. The leaflet provides a choice of interesting circular routes, which take in the Vale of Clwyd, Moel Famau Country Park and Offa's Dyke Path National Trail. The routes pass a number of historic features, including the sites of eight abandoned farm houses, a magical holy well and the striking St Cynhafal's church.

This project was the catalyst for two other projects in the same community, which successfully obtained Sustainable Development Fund and Rural Development Plan funding. The Llangynhafal Parish History booklet involved extensive community consultation in the form of memory gathering events to collect stories and photographs documenting life in the parish. The production of four information panels depicting sketches and information about abandoned buildings in the area was the final link in this suite of projects, which complement each other and demonstrate the strong link, which has developed between the local authority and the local Community – the key aim of Community Miles.



On the ground...



North Wales: Flintshire

PRESS RELEASE

A footpath that provides a vital link between Holywell and Holway has been significantly improved following extensive work by Flintshire County Council, carried out with grant aid support from Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The work involved cutting back vegetation, the replacement of an old drain and the provision of a stone surface. The footpath, forms part of the Pilgrim's Way long distance path between St. Winefride's Well, Holywell and Bardsey Island. It also connects to Greenfield and to the Wales Coastal Footpath, which was formally opened in 2012.

Bernie Attridge, Cabinet Member for Environment said,

"The Rights of Way Team provide a valuable service maintaining the footpath network for residents and visitors to enjoy Flintshire's beautiful countryside.

"I am delighted that the work between Holywell and Holway has been carried out to such a high standard and it should provide a boost to tourism in the Holywell area and further afield."

This work was one of a number of schemes carried out to improve footpaths and bridleways throughout Flintshire over the last financial year with assistance from NRW as part of its funding programme to implement the Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Mid and West Wales: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Circular community link to the Wales Coast Path

Public footpath 42/24 forms part of a circuit walk promoted on the National Park Authority's website. This is a popular route being used by residents and visitors alike, with a substantial staying visitor population at the nearby chalet park. The abutments of the footbridge across the stream had become undermined requiring the replacement of the existing bridge with a footbridge of a greater span and the construction of new, more substantial abutments. The grant was crucial in funding the purchase of materials (10 metre timber kit bridge) and engaging a contractor to remove the undermined bridge, cast new concrete abutments and install the new bridge.

http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/Files/files/Walk%20PDF/short_walks/english/wisemansbridge_pleasantvalley.pdf

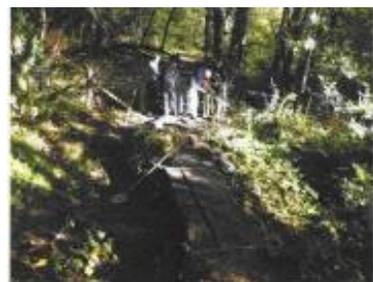
On the ground...

Mid and West Wales: Ceredigion:

Llangynllo Footpath Network

Two paths amongst a network of footpaths near to Llangynllo Church, which is a grade 11* listed building were inaccessible. These paths had not been used for many years and were blocked at various locations. Home-made stiles had been placed at two locations by one landowner but much work was required on these paths to upgrade them to an acceptable standard. It was decided to improve these paths under the ROWIP Funding Programme, using the volunteer workforce in order to reduce costs. It turned out to be a worthwhile and satisfying project for the volunteers.

Four gates, three way-marking posts and a sleeper footbridge were installed. Using the 'Cut & Fill' technique, a great deal of grading the path along a slope through the wood was carried out as well as general pioneer clearance of fallen branches and debris. Brambles were dug out of the ground and some minor drainage work was carried out by hand.



On the ground...

South Wales: Rhondda Cynon Taf

This area was reported to the authority by the local Ramblers group, without funding such a improvement could not have been completed. Another example of a much needed improvement to the much needed network



Swansea

The Community Path Improvement Scheme in Mawr has almost been completed after a number of years of hard work to get this very neglected network opened up to the public. Although the majority of the funding has come from RDP without the ROWIP grant there would have been no match funds to attract the RDP money, and therefore little or none of this work would have been possible.

On the ground...

South Wales: Torfaen

New Footbridge on Footpath 159 Llantarnam - Across Nant Dowlais River

The Council had received a number of complaints regarding the difficulties in crossing the river. The previous crossing had been achieved by using a set of stepping stones. The stepping stones had over time been washed away. There was no safe alternative and the only way to cross the river was by wading through the stream. A decision was made to install a new footbridge using ROWIP funding. NRW were consulted and they gave their consent for the project to proceed.

The footbridge was designed by the countryside ranger and manufactured by a local steel fabrication company. The abutments were constructed by the countryside rangers and the erection of the footbridge completed by the countryside access team, countryside access volunteers with the help of the HLF Skills in Action trainees from Brecon Beacons National Park.

Surface Improvements - Footpaths 159 Llantarnam

The footpath surface was improved to allow enhanced access to the new footbridge. The project now allows safe access between the Oakfield Housing Estate and Llantarnam Industrial Estate and the wider public rights of way network.

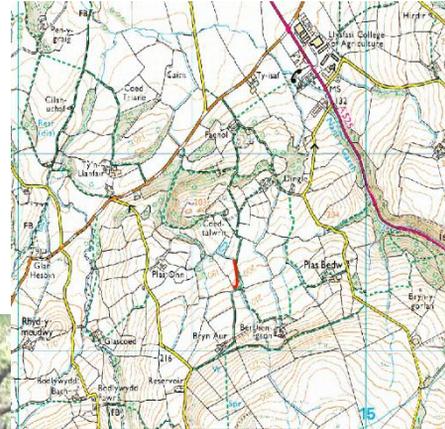


Multi benefit...

Once again over half of the projects delivered under the ROWIP Funding Programme benefit more than one user group, with projects that had a “general benefit to all users” and projects that were “multi benefit” (benefiting more than one user type) together accounting for 53% of the total value of projects funded this year.

North Wales: Denbighshire

One of the main outcomes delivered through the ROWIP under DE2 in 2014/15, making ways for horses and cyclist was securing a long term solution to a section of bridleway at Coed Tawrn near Llysfasi Collage which forms an essential part of the British Horse Society Seahorse route avoiding the need to use a busy A Road. Long term erosion problems meant the route came to the end of its serviceable life needing in excess of £40,000 to rebuild in order to re-level and widen the path for horses. Negotiations with landowners resulted in a realignment of the bridleway into an area of new woodland to avoid the unpassable area at only 25% of the original cost. Further improvement to the bridleway will be sought over the next year (improvements to gates) now that a suitable realignment of the route has been secured.



Mid and West Wales: Pembrokeshire Council

Riverside Walk Fortunes Frolic, Haverfordwest

Pembrokeshire has very few areas that offer the opportunity for multi ability access into the Countryside. Most places do not have the required infrastructure or topography. The frolic Path is an ancient riverside route that is served by quiet road access on the outskirts of Haverfordwest, there is ample space for car parking and the riverside views are stunning. The route enables access direct from the town centre into the countryside. Continued overleaf...

Multi benefit...

Pembrokeshire Council worked with the landowner, NRW conservation and local councils to plan, promote and implement the project. The Authority's Access officer was also included in the project to ensure compliance.

The path was in places severely eroded by the river, also overgrown from many years of neglect and was very narrow with severe cross path incline due to years of sediment and vegetation deposits.

A number of benches and a seat provided by contractor have been sited along the surfaced part of the route.

The route is to be branded and signed to give a feeling of security for the targeted groups. New highway signs have also been agreed for the short sections of linking highway.

Mid and West Wales: Ceredigion

Lledrod to Ystwyth trail link

It was evident that there was a distinct problem in linking some locations to the popular Ystwyth Trail in North Ceredigion. Joining the trail from Lledrod and neighbouring localities, using Public Rights of Way was almost impossible without using roads. There existed a good network of bridleways that were inaccessible at various locations. It was decided to carry out improvement works on these Public Rights of Way under the ROWIP Funding Programme. Surveys were conducted, consultations were carried out with landowners, work schedules were produced and site meetings were carried out with contractors. There were ten bridleways in need of upgrading, which included the replacement/addition of 22 gates, pioneer clearance, drainage work and the installation of easy latches. Initially, improvement works were to be carried out on eight routes with another two to be included if there were sufficient funding available towards the end of the programme.

The work was split between contractors and the Ramblers' Volunteer workforce. Works on two bridleways were taken on by the volunteers. On the example below (BW 25/32), they installed five gates, re-hung several others and fitted nine easy latches.



Multi benefit...

Mid and West Wales: Powys

Glyndwr's Way

The badly damaged bridleway at Abbeycwmhir has now been repaired and improved. The majority of the work was paid for by a £4000 contribution from the Powys County Council ROWIP fund.

Locally the bridleway is called Watery Lane and has always been a wet route. However over the past year it had been illegally used by motorcyclists who caused deep surface ruts.



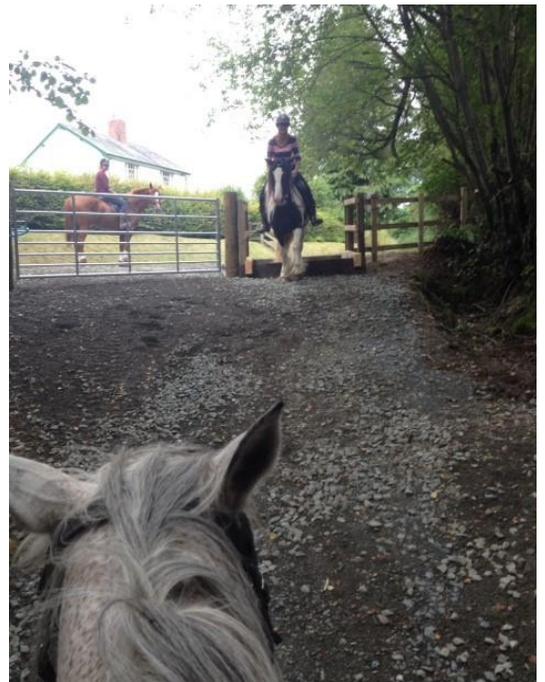
Running water made the ruts even deeper and the result was a bridleway unpleasant for walkers to use, difficult for cyclists and hazardous for equestrians. The problem was flagged up by the British Horse Society representative who reported that an equestrian had recently slipped into one of the deep ruts while trying to negotiate the lane.

The contractor has in-filled all the ruts, slightly widened the lane, surfaced with stone, made a side drainage channel, re-profiled the top of the lane where it meets the minor road, installed a field gate (locked), fencing and two horse-stiles.

The Powys County Council Highways department helped by clearing a troublesome culvert that was discharging excess water down the lane instead of into a drainage ditch.

The forestry section of Natural Resources Wales also helped by agreeing to site one of the horse-stiles to prevent the route from being used as part of a motorcycling circuit.

Local equestrians are delighted with the result and have been using the horse-stiles without trouble. The horse-stiles should prevent any further use and damage by motorcyclists and remove the potential for a collision within the narrow confines of the bridleway.



Multi benefit...

South Wales: Merthyr Tydfil

Identify and undertake specific projects to include provision for everyone

The authority has a plan for rationalising barriers on the promoted trails network for the ease of legitimate users of the trails whilst trying to prevent the illegal use of the trails.

The Taff Trail is separated into sections and the aim is to have a barrier at the start and the end of each section.

As part of this process before the removal of the barriers could take place the proposal's have been to the rights of way committee and DMMO's have to be made.



Swansea

One project has simultaneously removed a long unusable footpath (the M4 cuts it in half) and replaced it with a new bridleway. The new path has been confirmed and works will commence to open this.

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Surface and drainage improvements were carried out on a number of byways within RCT for example Aberdare 51. Bridleway gates have been installed in at Rhigos 10 and in addition to this work 14 gates of variable sizes were purchased and installed, and across the county in areas identified by local users as warranting attention. The type of action is always successful, utilising contactors when necessary for skilled work and making the most of their in house team for smaller scale but just as important improvements.

Multi benefit...

South Wales: Newport

Construction of Bridleway Route to provide a safe access for Equestrians

This work was programmed into the 2014/2015 ROWIP Programme as a result of an increased demand for a separate bridleway access to the bridleway network at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre.

There has been a general increase in the number of stables and equestrian use at this location, however during the summer weekends and bank holidays the visitor centre area becomes very busy with pedestrians and traffic accessing the car park. This combined with shared equestrian access has raised concerns with horse riders as they need to access the bridleway through the main car park.

Through ROWIP funding a safer route has been constructed for horse riders to access the bridleway network in a less congested and safer location away from the car park/visitor centre.



Multi benefit...

South Wales: Monmouthshire

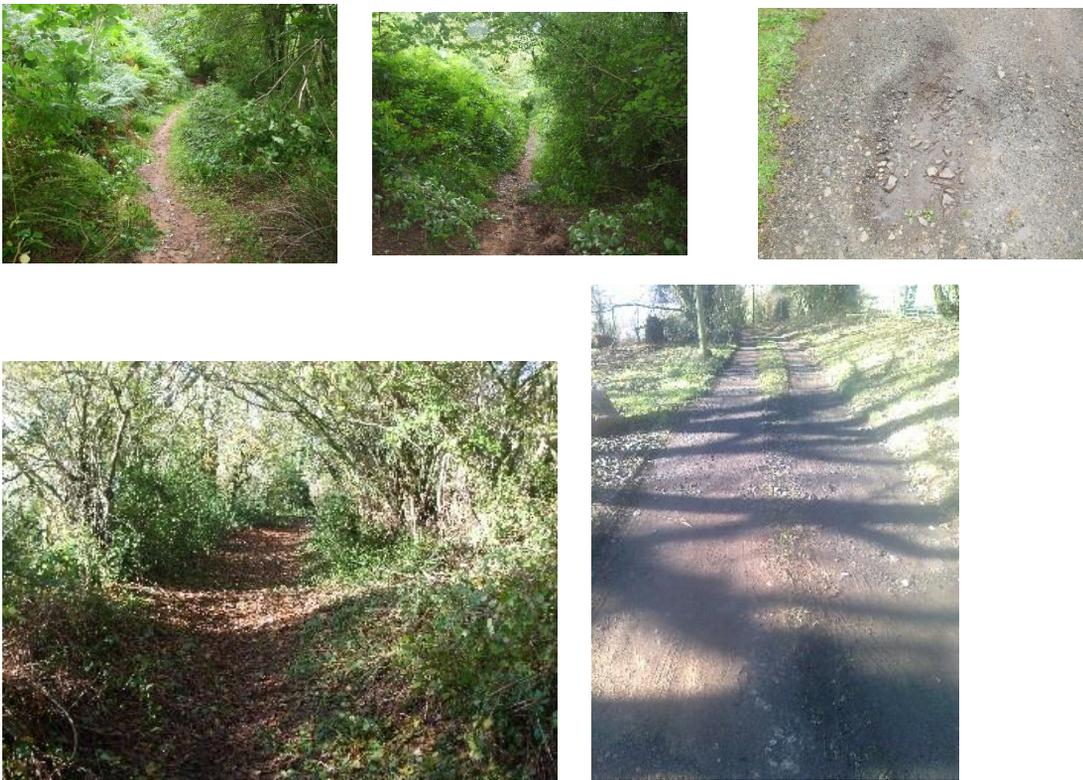
Trostrey Common Restricted Byway Surfacing Project.

As the pictures (right) show, this Restricted Byway had a poor surface. Monmouthshire's Field Officer discussed the situation with local residents and got quotes. The first 80m of the Restricted Byway from the road was surfaced in tarmac then the remaining length was patched and repaired to its junction with a footpath.



Gray Hill: Surfacing

This restricted byway (pictures below) had problems with extensive pot holes on its surfaced length. The project involved a contractor being employed to clear vegetation to allow full width of track and scrape out and fill the wet area.



Access for all...

In 2014/15 whilst all practical projects should take the least restrictive access approach, there were also some specific projects delivered to make access easier and to encourage people to become more active.

North Wales: Denbighshire

Get Walking in the New Year.

The Get Walking in the New Year Event was targeted towards getting people who do not normally visit the countryside out walking for the benefit of their health. Although the event was not directly funded by the ROWIP programme the event used paths improved through the programme in the past, demonstrating the clear benefit of having a long term scheme that enables improvements to take place over a number of years. Local walking groups joined forces at Loggerheads Country Park to demonstrate why walking is good for your health and celebrate National Disabled Access Day on Saturday the 17th of January. The event included walks of varying distance, Nordic Walking taster sessions, a pedometer challenge and a treasure hunt for children. The event also highlighted the Let's Walk Scheme which provides the opportunity for people to join a weekly walking group to improve their health, which again uses many of the paths improved again through the ROWIP and the Community Miles Scheme. The event was attended by Kenneth Skates AM Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Mid/West Wales: Powys

ROWIP Report – Prior Groves, Footpath Extension

The all-inclusive access footpath in Priory Groves has now been extended by an extra 40m, this will now extend the footpath so that visitors can sit at and enjoy, both river views of the river Honddu and the surrounding woodland known as Priory Groves, with all its local wildlife and the subtle changes throughout the seasons that now can be accessed throughout the year.

As part of the £5000 ROWIP grant, it was decided that a picnic bench should be installed, this will mean that once you arrive at its location there is somewhere for everyone to sit down and enjoy the surroundings. Continued overleaf...

Access for all...



This location was chosen as it is relatively close to local housing and one of the main access routes into Brecon are just over the river on the East bank of the Honddu.

ROWIP Extended Footpath

The area where the picnic bench has been installed has always been a wet muddy area, even in the summer time. Drainage has been installed as well as crushed stone to create a hard standing area that you can access from the town entrance to Priory Groves, this now gives visitors a fairly level access for around 200m along a river walk into the woodland.

The footpath from the picnic bench area, to the bridge (top picture) follows a line of an old industrial water leat that used to power a long gone mill. This area again has always been wet and muddy and access has been for hardy souls with good footwear, and now improved for all year access.

Future

It is intended that footpath improvements can be continued so that eventually a circular footpath can be created with various stops at vantage points and make the Priory Groves an accessible attraction for everyone.

Access for all...

Mid and West Wales: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

The ROWIP funding allowed the National Park Authority to hire a specially adapted mini-bus with a tail lift to transport wheelchair and mobility scooter users to attend a programme of guided walks. The programme of walks is aimed at introducing socially excluded groups and the disabled to a range of countryside access opportunities in the National Park. The mini-bus was hired on 17 occasions to facilitate 17 guided walks attended by a total of 71 people. The number of participants using a wheelchair/mobility scooter was 28. The ROWIP grant funding was crucial in enabling the hire of the mini bus to ensure that wheelchair users could participate.

South Wales: Caerphilly

The Authority has, over the last few years submitted a large proportion of their ROWIP budget to a project for less abled bodied people. Using these monies they have made a conscious effort to change stiles for gates with landowners agreement and also improved surfacing of pathways primarily in urban settings for those users with mobility problems. This has also had the added advantage of improving the network for other user types such as pushchair users or safe routes for school children.



Merthyr Tydfil

Identify locations and install 5 wheelchair access benches throughout county borough

This has been a very successful output over recent years with the users of the trails network. In previous years the authority installed backless benches, this year wheelchair friendly picnic tables were installed.

Info and promotion...

Actions for improving information and promotion about linear access has been a consistently popular use of the funding over the lifetime of the programme.

EXPLORE BRIDGEND

Explore Bridgend's Countryside

Did you know there's some beautiful countryside and inspiring coast line in Bridgend, what's more, with a network of over 650km of public rights of way and off-road cycle tracks it's just waiting to be explored free of charge.

The network is managed by Bridgend County Borough Council's Rights of Way team and, over the past 12 months, they have been carrying out even more improvements to the public path network to make it more accessible. This year the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales has provided more than £32,000 of grant funding to the Council as part of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding programme. This brings the total grant received over the past 7 years to almost £400,000. Surfaces have been improved on footpaths and trackways and a number of gates, bridges and other facilities designed to improve access have been replaced or repaired. Orders have been processed which will amend the Definitive Map, particularly in relation to the network around Parc Slip Nature reserve. Historical research and discussions with users and landowners have also helped the Council determine a number of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders.

The Rights of Way team also promote walking, cycling and equestrian routes in the area varying from short circular village walks to longer distance routes such as the Bridgend section of the Wales Coast Path.

To obtain free walks leaflets or to discuss any public rights of way issues in Bridgend call the Team on 01696 642433 / 642433 or email rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk

Merthyr Mawr
Explore the east dunes at Merthyr Mawr by following the Wales Coast Path on the Merthyr to Castellon dunes. The dunes are unusual because they have formed against a sensitive plateau that helps make one of the dunes here one of the highest in Europe, locally known as the 'Big dipper'. The area is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation and a National Nature Reserve because its wide range of habitats supports a wealth of plants and insects.

“Bridgend has 740 Public Rights of Way totalling just over 584km”

EXPLORE BRIDGEND

Love2Walk Festival
The glorious weather in June 2014 provided the perfect backdrop for the Council's 17th Annual Walking Festival. Returning to its traditional 6 day format over 200 people enjoyed more than 25 walks.

Pare Slip
The Rights of Way network around the Parc Slip Nature Reserve has been comprehensively upgraded since council staff operations started in the 1970s. Orders confirmed during the year ensure that the rights of way network in this area is once again open.

Garw Bridge
The Council has been busy for some weeks for a number of months in the background working on the Garw Bridge. Residents are now able to use the bridge and the cycle path side in the process of being created as a by-product.

Access For All
Part of the Rights of Way Improvement plan has been dedicated to improving facilities to provide better access for people with reduced mobility. New gates and gates have been replaced in various locations.

Historic Routes
The annual historical and cultural walks have been used for 20 years or more and are not currently being replaced or updated. This year the Council has decreased a number of publications which had to be replaced to improve the public access to the

Nine Days of Walking Through the Glorious Bridgend Countryside

It's that time again! Bridgend's Love2Walk Festival is not only returning for a 16th year but it's making a move to earlier in the year. This year will see a return to the traditional 9 day format as the Festival runs from the 21st - 29th June 2014. It is being organised and run in partnership with the Bridgend Local Access Forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A PROGRAMME OF WALKS VISIT WWW.PUBLICRIGHTSOFWAY.CO.UK OR TELEPHONE 01696 642433

Love2Walk

South Wales: Bridgend

During the year the Rights of Way team prepared an advertorial for publication in the 'Around Town – Bridgend' magazine at the beginning of 2015. The purpose of the advert was to highlight all the work that the Council's Rights of Way team carries out and included information on the work that has been undertaken utilising the RoWIP funding. Photographs used in the advertorial show some of the work implemented as part of the RoWIP funding programme.

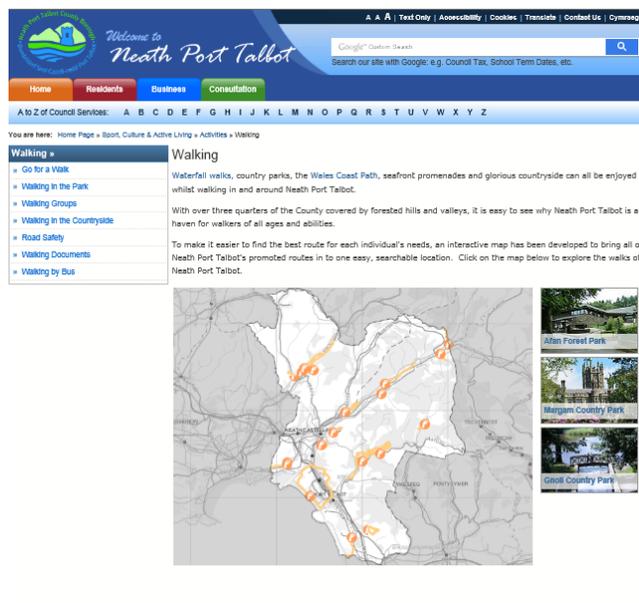
The advertorial also highlighted the walks leaflets that the Council published and advised that these were available free of charge. The advertorial appears to have been very successful as numerous requests have been received for copies of the Council's walks leaflets to be forwarded to members of the public.

Info and promotion...

South Wales: Neath Port Talbot

New online map provides first step for walking in NPT

Walkers keen to explore Neath Port Talbot can now begin their journey online thanks to a new interactive walking map for the county borough. Users can now log onto www.npt.gov.uk/walking to choose a walk that suits their interests. They will find a printable map with description of the route, distances, points of interest and activity sheets for children with examples of wildlife to spot along the way. The map illustrates the spectacular walks available in the County covering rights of way, waterfall walks, country paths and coastal walks. The project aims to encourage independent walking in everyday lives and as a free activity for children to enjoy.



Launch: A series of 10 guided walks were carried out between October and December 2014 to launch the online Interactive Walking Map for Neath Port Talbot. These walks included rights of way and encouraged independent walking for all ages in the local area. Local Schools, walking groups, community organisations and health organisations were contacted to get involved.



Info and promotion...

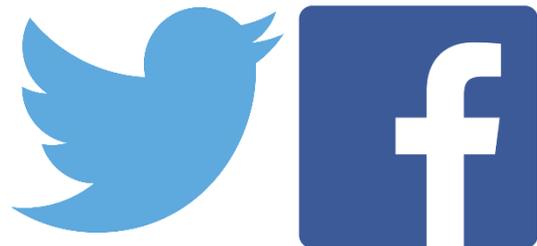
As well as the above examples of the range of things delivered across Wales in 2014/15 there was a noticeable increase in the number of authorities that referred to using social media to publicise their ROWIP work

South Wales: Monmouthshire: Examples of Tweets about works in Monmouthshire.



South Wales: Merthyr Tydfil

Work with community groups and local schools to develop and promote the adopt a path scheme have gone very well with one school fully signed up and participating in the scheme.



Improving information for management

This year seven projects of this type were carried out accounting for 6% of the total funding in order to improve records and databases for the purpose of access management.

Mid and West Wales: Pembrokeshire National Park Authority

Development of CAMS public rights of way database.

The grant funded the employment of a part time post to undertake data entry and reporting. The Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) is used for the National Trail Pembrokeshire Coast Path and in the last two years CAMS has been rolled out to manage the wider network of public rights of way. Base line data has yet to be collected for the entire National Park area but the additional staff member, funded by the grant, has helped greatly to populate the data base. The part time officer worked on 22 days and entered condition data for 249 individual public rights of way.

Powys

Digitisation of Definitive Map data

ROWIP funding was provided in 2014-15 to allow for digitisation of Definitive Map data, because one of the actions in Powys County Council's ROWIP is to create an electronic version of the Definitive Map and Statement. The funding has been used to commission an external company to carry out digitisation tasks on behalf of Powys County Council.

The Montgomeryshire and Breconshire data can now be used by the Countryside Services officers on a daily basis and integrated into the CAMS database, which is used to record problems, programme works and monitor assets on rights of way and open access land. From the point of view of the public, the data can be viewed against an up-to-date map base, so is much easier to understand than the paper-based Definitive Map. Once the Definitive Statements for Montgomeryshire and Breconshire have been updated, the digital data will also be used to republish the Definitive Map for each area.

Improving information for management

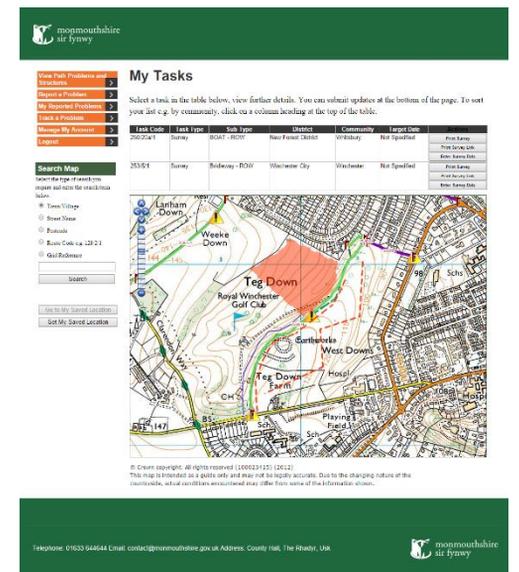
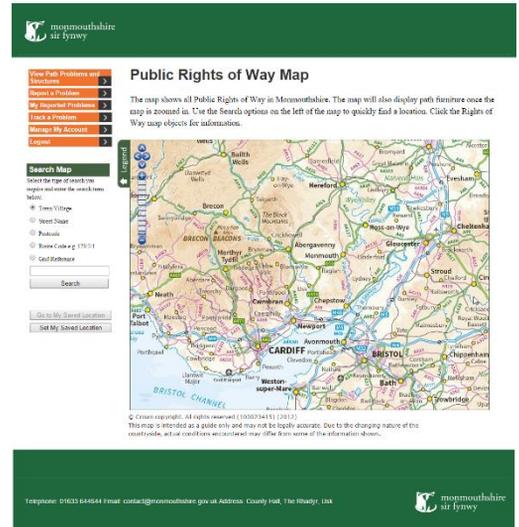
South Wales: Monmouthshire

Volunteer CAMS/Mapping Improvements

Monmouthshire County Council currently have a mapping system <http://access.monmouthshire.gov.uk/> which enables volunteers and other users to download maps, view maps, routes and their status and also see what furniture there is on a path or route. They are undergoing some major changes which involves:

- enabling more community groups to assist with maintain and promoting their network by themselves
- being innovative, to streamline and make the best use of technology
- enabling Countryside staff to not only pass on tasks more quickly to volunteer groups, but to ensure there is as little in the way of traditional paper pushing to do as possible
- making it easier for Volunteers to report what they are doing

One of the identified areas of concern has always been that many minor issues, such as waymarking, gets low priority in maintenance prioritisation and therefore sits on the authority's database waiting to be sorted often for some time. Issues such as signage can be addressed by volunteers and some groups such as Chepstow Walkers Welcome have expressed an interest in dealing with such issues. It was therefore felt necessary and timely to amend the public mapping system, so that suitable identified issues, could be passed from the CAMS database for volunteers to do. Volunteers would then log into the system receive their issue, acknowledge receipt and undertake that task. When it is complete they can log back into the mapping system, click on the mapping to show where they were and advise what they have done. This then goes into a holding pen, is authorised, then it is automatically saved back into the authority's database as completed.



Investing in Staff and People...

On the basis of information from the authorities funded under the Programme, during 2014/15 9.5 people were directly employed using the ROWIP Funding Programme compared with 10.5 staff the previous year.

Some of the posts that were included:

Conwy: Community Walking Project Officer

Denbighshire : Communities Miles Walking Officer – Part Time

Blaenau Gwent & Rhondda Cynon Taff – Definitive Map Officers

Resource used for ROWIP Implementation	No of days spent on ROWIP works
Existing internal Local Authority staff (a combination of permanent and FTA)	1672
Contractors	1258
Volunteers	426.5
Consultants	432.5
Other staff related resources e.g administration	53

As well as delivering through own staff, consultants and contractors, in bringing together this casework report the involvement and contribution that volunteers make to access improvement in Wales was evident. Together with examples included earlier in this report, some specific examples are highlighted overleaf...

Managing the network and volunteers...

South Wales: Monmouthshire

Bridge Survey Training

Monmouthshire's RoWIP states in Statement of Action 7d "Seek innovative and new ways in which volunteers can assist in surveying, maintenance and promotion of countryside access." Statement of Action 7c has a target "to establish a programme of inspecting bridge sites for Health and Safety Reasons". This bridge survey project helps to fulfil this and attract new volunteers.

There are 787 bridges on the Rights of Way Network in Monmouthshire. The bridge management report, produced in 2013 with the assistance of ROWIP funding, identified a range of specific measures for inspections of bridges and in particular identified that those bridges thought to be in good condition, could be inspected by trained volunteers. But only certain categories such as sleeper bridges and small kit bridges.

It also identified a need to ensure all staff and any volunteer associated with bridge work are trained to have an understanding of bridge components and the types of bridges they can expect to record/inspect.

The volunteers have been put into pairs and will be undertaking their inspections from March 2015. If successful it will lead to a programme of regular training and the establishment of a large scale bridge inspection regime for Monmouthshire.



Caerphilly :

Over the last few years the authority has used ROWIP funding to help develop their Volunteer network. Monies have enabled CCBC to establish 2 working groups and several individuals. They have been able to work with the public in giving them training in manual handling of small hand tools, surveying techniques and also First Aid. They have been able to carry out maintenance to the network and also undertake surveys of the promoted path network, which have proved invaluable in times of austerity at the Local Authority

Thank you to all the Local Authorities who have contributed to the compilation of this report, all photographs are provided by the respective authority.

Note that the information gathered here has come directly from the Local Authorities end of year reports for the last year of RFP.

Report compiled by Carys Drew, Recreation and Access Advisor and Susan Jackson, ROWIP Funding Officer

