

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Date Not Specified

Notice of meeting Local Access Forum

Thursday, 7th November, 2024 at 2.00 pm,
Training area at County Hall, Usk, NP15 1GA

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence / Introductions.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	To confirm and sign the minutes of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum meeting of 23 July 2024.	1 - 4
4.	Actions arising from the previous meeting not on the agenda: Subscription to 'Waymark' IPRoW Journal Additional LAF member recruitment	
5.	Regional Wellbeing health project (Dez Jones, Regional Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator)	5 - 12
6.	Tracks and Trails project update (minutes attached) (Subgroup update)	13 - 16
7.	Natural Resources Wales update- (notes attached) (Sarah Tindal, Senior Officer People and Places, South East Wales)	17 - 18
8.	Monmouthshire Countryside Access update (Ruth Rourke, Countryside Access Manager & Andy Powell Countryside Access Management Officer)	19 - 54
9.	Future member submissions	
10.	Date of next meeting 2.00pm on Wednesday 19th February (Venue to be confirmed)	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Anne Underwood
Irene Brooke
Anthea Fairey
Shan Lewis
Phil Mundell
Phillip Allsopp
Bethany Handley
Barbara Heys
Ian Mawdsley
Terence Mead
Sallie Roderick
Jack Thurston
Kelvin Varney
Huw Watkins
Rhys Wynne-Jones
John Askew

County Councillors: Sara Burch, Cantref Ward, Labour and Co-Operative Party

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

□ to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Terms of Reference

Monmouthshire Local Access Forum is the statutory Local Access Forum for Monmouthshire (excluding that part of the county that falls into the Brecon Beacons National Park), as required under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

The function of the Forum is to advise the local authority, Natural Resources Wales and others, as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and to advise and assist with the implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Membership

Members of the forum are appointed by the “Appointing Authority” (Monmouthshire County Council in accordance with the relevant regulations. The current membership of the forum is as follows:

Anne Underwood

Irene Brooke

Anthea Fairey

Shan Lewis

Phil Mundell

Phillip Allsopp

Bethany Handley

Barbara Heys

Ian Mawdsley

Terence Mead

Sallie Roderick

Jack Thurston

Kelvin Varney

Huw Watkins

Rhys Wynne-Jones

John Askew

County Councillors: Sara Burch (the “Appointing Authority” representative)

Observers;

Representatives from Monmouthshire County Council and Natural Resources Wales

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum held
at Shire Hall - Monmouth on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Phillip Allsopp
Anthea Fairey
Bethany Handley
Barbara Heys
Terence Mead
Phil Mundell
Sallie Roderick
Jack Thurston
Anne Underwood
Kelvin Varney
Huw Watkins
Rhys Wynne-Jones
County Councillor Sara Burch

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Dickenson	Tomorrow's Tourism
Sion Evans	Wye Valley National Landscape
Richard Garner	Public Right of Way Officer
Matthew Lewis (Countryside)	Interim Performance, Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for MonLife
Richard Ray	Paralegal
Helen Roberts	XV Insight
Ruth Rourke	Countryside Access Manager

APOLOGIES:

Bob Campbell, Ian Mawdsley and Sarah Tindal

1. Election of Deputy Chair

PM welcomed members to the third meeting of the new local access forum and outlined the procedure for election of a Deputy Chair. Two nominations had been received for Deputy Chair and following a secret ballot of those members in attendance Barbara Heys was elected as Deputy Chair.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th June 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of the meeting of 11 June 2024 were approved. ML indicated that the recruitment of additional members to reflect landowner / managers and equestrian interests had commenced and if suitable individuals came forward they would be invited to attend future meetings as observers prior to their formal appointment by the County Council.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum held
at Shire Hall - Monmouth on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024 at 2.00 pm

3. Presentation on the Tracks and Trails Consultation and Strategy by Richard Dickinson (Tomorrow's Tourism) and Helen Roberts (XV Insight) - Tracks and Trails Strategy and Consultation Report attached

RD and HR presented a summary of the Tracks and Trails strategy and the associated consultation process. The project was commissioned by the Wye Valley National Landscape partnership and the aims was to produce a widely supported Integrated Recreation Access Strategy for the Monmouthshire part of the Lower Wye Valley bringing together all stakeholders through inclusive consultation that prioritised recreation access routes, agreed sustainable solutions and produced an agreed and costed action plan. RD outlined the strategic framework, and the research element, and HR outlined the consultation process and responses received.

RD went on to outline the principal findings of the asset audit, the challenges and opportunities presented and the resulting strategy. The vision is for the Wye Valley's Tracks & Trails to be a resilient, well managed and welcoming place for all responsible users. To achieve this three core priorities have been identified; boosting awareness, an inclusive approach "Wye for All", and robust management, supported by two enabling priorities; better data and making it happen.

ML outlined progress in establishing a steering group following the forum's agreement on 11 June 2024 to establish that as a sub group of the forum. The Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee endorsed the strategy and the proposed governance arrangements on 8 July 2024 and the Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group (the coordination group between the Council and the community councils in the Lower Wye Valley) has nominated a member to form part of the steering group.

SE outlined the role that the National Landscape team could now take to help facilitate the initial meetings of the steering group and bring the limited currently available resources to assist early implementation and the development of future bids.

Members asked a number of questions, including relating to the consultation process and the activities respondents reported. HR reflected that was a summary of consultation response received as this was a consultation process not market research. HR indicated that she felt the level of response was a fair one given the nature of the consultation and issues under discussion. RD added that whilst the results of the consultation were important the wider and supportive organisational input was also significant in framing the proposed actions. In response to further questions the need to develop clearer cross organisational data sharing agreements was acknowledged, and is an action identified in the action plan. The prioritisation of actions was discussed and that would be an initial task for the steering group to review and come to some agreement. Insight into how users select trails was also discussed and the challenge of the ready availability of online information of variable quality.

PM indicated that the secretary would now seek nominations from members to be part of the steering group and as discussed as initial meeting would be facilitated after the summer.

4. Operational updates (NRW and MCC)

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum held at Shire Hall - Monmouth on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024 at 2.00 pm

Observers from NRW were unable to attend the meeting but written updates (on recreational and operational issues) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

RR introduced the MCC operational update referring to the award of funding from the GWR Community Fund for Rogiet Countryside Park, including for new direction and orientation signage to link with the Wales Coast Path, and to the continuation of Wesh Government Access Improvement Grant in the current year. RR indicated that this, and the community links programme, would be the subject of a future report to the forum. The written report included links to two videos recently supported through the grant.

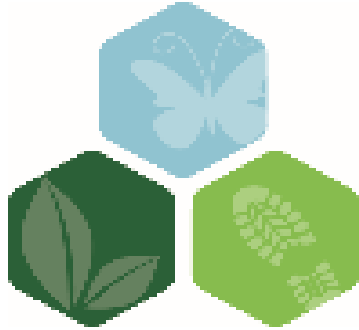
RR summarised the current position on the replacement of Treadam Bridge on Offa's Dyke Path National Trail which was being supported via grant aid from NRW. Finally reference was made to two current issues, coastal erosion of the Wales Coast Path at Black Rock and a recent landslip on the permitted Wye Valley Walk route at Piercefield Woods which was illustrated to members.

5. Dates and times of future meetings - 2.00pm 7th November 2024 and 2.00pm 19th February 2025

2.00pm 7th November 2024 and 2.00pm 19th February 2025, venues to be advised
Members thanked the outgoing Secretary who responded accordingly.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm

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GRID GWYRDD GWENT GWENT GREEN GRID

In partnership with:



CYNGOR
monmouthshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
sir fynywy





GRID GWYRDD GWENT GWENT GREEN GRID

The Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) is a new ground breaking collaboration that aims to improve and develop “**Green Infrastructure**”, a term used to describe the network of natural and semi-natural features and green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect our villages, towns and cities as well as supporting job opportunities within an area. Green Infrastructure has a crucial role to play in addressing nature, climate change and health emergencies.

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GWENT GREEN GRID

Summary of Work Strands:

- Policy and strategy
- Nature and climate
- Health & Well-being and skills.



The Team

Helen Fairbank – Collaboration Lead

Colette Mooney – Regional Nature and Climate Change Awareness Officer

Elliot Waters - Nature Isn't Neat Project Officer

James Bower – Landscape and Countryside Skills Co-ordinator

Dez Jones – Regional Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator



Health Data

Local Authority Sort	Life expectancy of males (2020-2022)	Life expectancy of females (2020-2022)
Blaenau Gwent	75.7	78.9
Torfaen	77.3	80.8
Monmouthshire	80.3	83.6

The average healthy life expectancy of women living in Blaenau Gwent is just 55.3 years, whereas in Monmouthshire it is 69.3 years



Methodology



Collaborative
Approach



Informed by Health
Data.



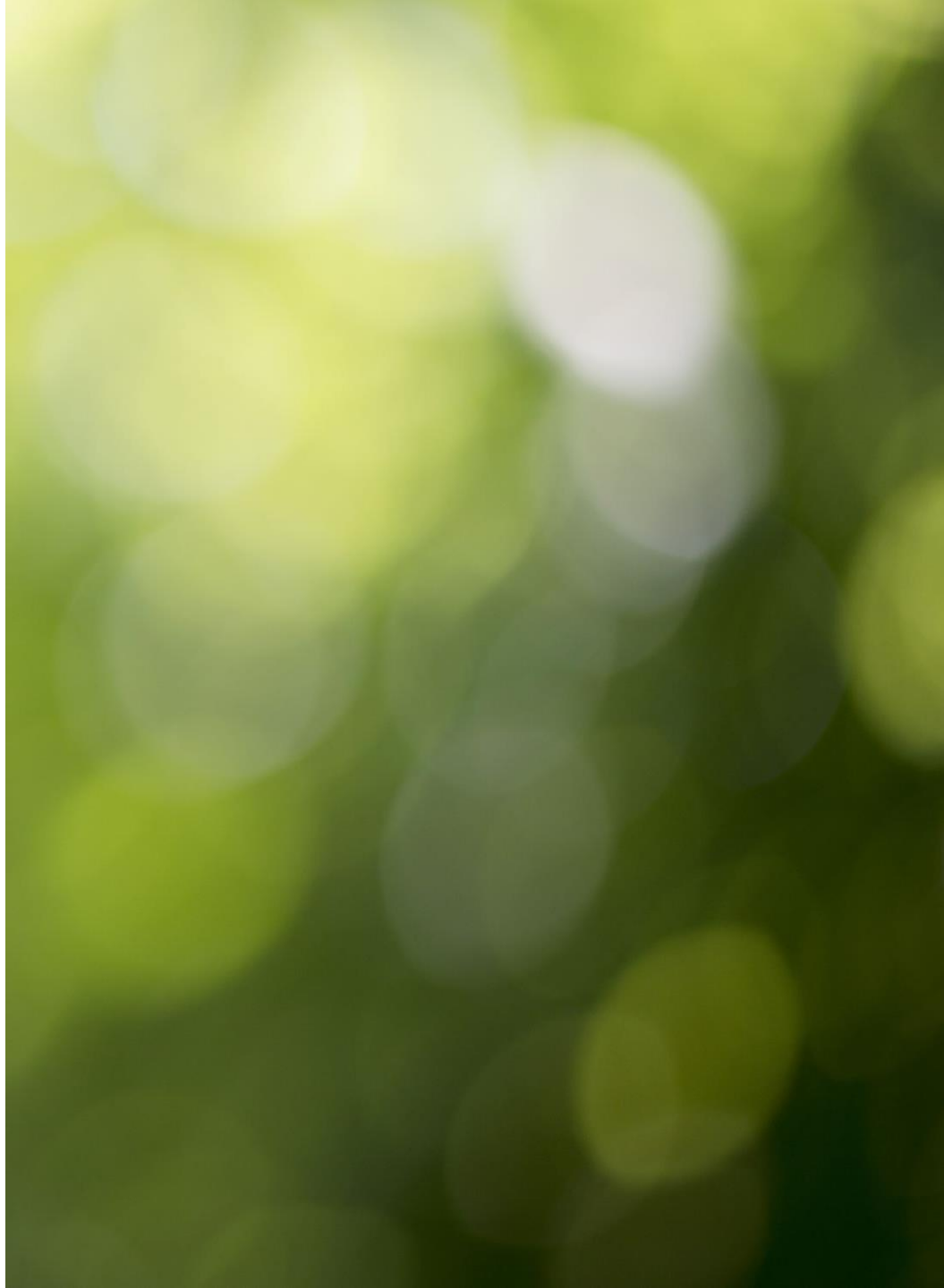
Responsive to local
and national
priorities



Evidence based.



Community
Empowerment focus



Summary of Work

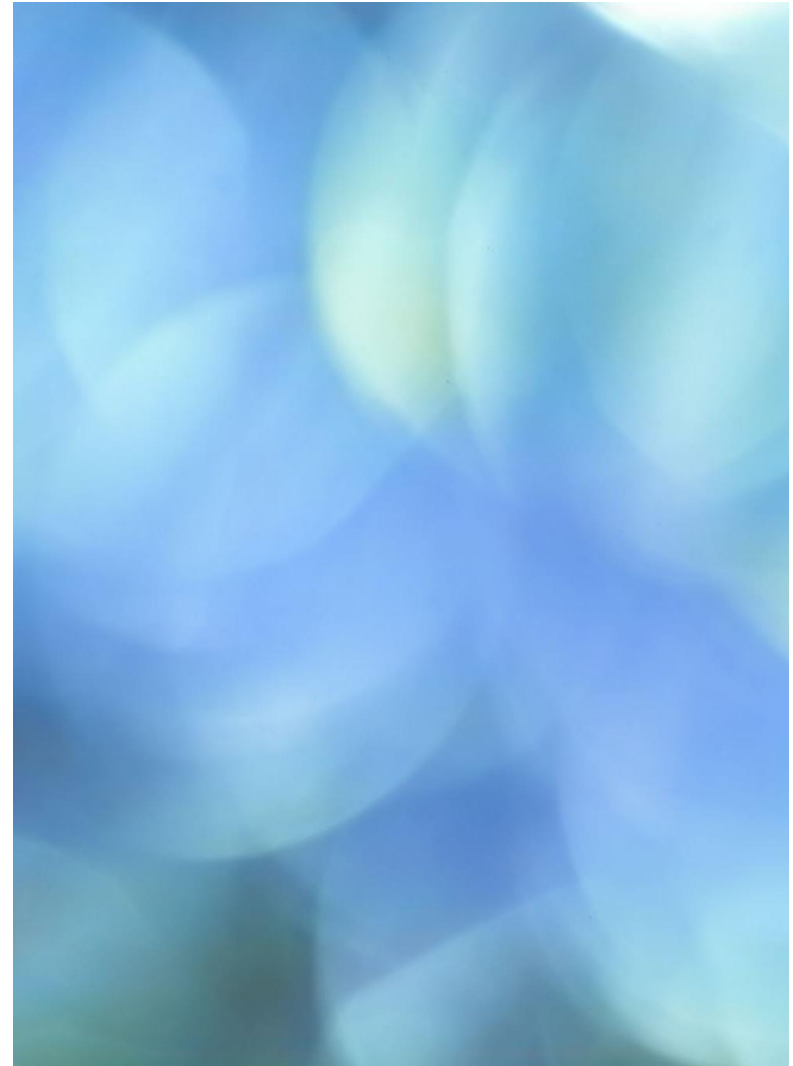
SUPPORT FOR 37 COMMUNITY GROUPS

DIVERSE RANGE OF PROJECTS

CREATION OF 'WELL-BEING SUPPORT NETWORKS'

LINKS TO/ COLLABORATION WITH, A RANGE OF KEY PARTNERS

[Back to the Woods Basecamp - Monmouthshire - Gwent Green Grid on Vimeo](#)



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Lower Wye Tracks and Trails Steering Group

Notes of the meeting at 2pm on 8th October 2024

Hybrid at Wye Valley National Landscape Office, Monmouth & MS Teams

Attendees

Sallie Roderick – Monmouthshire LAF

Terence Mead – Monmouthshire LAF

Rhys Wynne-Jones – Monmouthshire LAF [online]

Kelvin Varney – Monmouthshire LAF

Irene Brooke – Monmouthshire LAF

Anne Underwood – Monmouthshire LAF

Ian Mawdsley – Monmouthshire LAF / Chair of Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group [online]

Andrew Blake – Wye Valley National Landscape (interim chair)

Celyn Davies - Wye Valley National Landscape

Ruth Rourke – MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council [online]

Ruth Waycott - Wye Valley National Landscape [online]

Apologies

Graham Kinsella - Monmouthshire County Council

Meeting Purpose

To discuss and plan initial actions for implementing the Lower Wye Tracks and Trails Strategy in the Monmouthshire part of the Wye Valley National Landscape.

Key Takeaways

- The group will focus on two initial projects: improving signage and conducting route surveys.
- Signage efforts will target high-conflict areas like Tintern and Whitebrook to clarify legal usage.
- Surveys will assess route conditions, surrounding landscape features, and maintenance needs.
- A site visit is planned for 21st November to view issues first-hand and test potential survey methods.
- Education and behaviour change efforts are needed but are a longer-term goal.

Discussion

Group Structure and Governance

- The group is a subcommittee of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum (LAF) and will report to the LAF, the Wye Valley National landscape Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), and Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group.
- Terms of reference were reviewed and amended to include quarterly meetings and additional members (Highways officer, Natural Resources Wales).
- Requests for chair was made; further discussion will be had with LAF members to fill role.

Priority Projects

- Signage improvements:
 - Focus on clarifying legal usage rights in high-conflict areas
 - Work with Highways and Rights of Way teams on appropriate signage
 - Consider educational/behavioural messaging
 - Proper signage enables enforcement actions
- Route surveys:
 - Assess physical conditions, maintenance needs, adjacent and surrounding landscape features
 - Scope and test survey methods/technology (e.g. CAMS system)
 - Potentially use volunteers to help conduct surveys
 - Data will inform future improvement projects and funding bids
- Consider trial focusing on key areas like Tintern and Whitebrook, rather than whole National Landscape

Accessibility Improvements

- Discussed potential projects like improving wheelchair access at Whitestone and on the North Footpath
- Agreed accessibility is important but not the immediate/highest priority
- Need to balance with other user needs and route suitability

Behaviour and Conflict Issues

- Illegal/inappropriate use of routes, especially by motorized vehicles, is a major concern
- Education and outreach needed, especially for visitors from outside area
- Police involvement may be required for enforcement
- Proper signage is first step to enable both understanding and enforcement

Next Steps

- Organize site visit to Tintern area on 21st November
- Research signage options and requirements for target/trial areas
- Investigate route survey methods and criteria
- Schedule next formal meeting for 3rd December
- Reach out to potential chair candidates from LAF
- Planning underway for 50th anniversary of Wye Valley Walk in 2025

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Monmouth LAF meeting NRW update: 07/11/24

NRW Update:

1. Land Management update:

- Normal operations are continuing the estate, we are just about to start our annual tree safety inspections of the woodlands over the next couple of months, we are carrying out small maintenance operations here and there ongoing.
- The heathland grazing project at Beacon Hill has gone well for the 2nd year and will hopefully allow us to remove about 4 km of fencing, 5 gates and a cattle grid in the future on the site while still reviving the heathland. However there is an issue of cyclists / motorbikes crossing a couple of the footpaths at speed that has been raised by some local users and we are looking at what we can do to try and resolve this, chicanes that are wide enough for horses and accessible cycles but stop people flying across the PROW is the current obvious answer. There will be further Birch clearance over the winter on this site also.
- Wentwood steering group meeting yet to happen however we are keen to engage with the wider landowner stakeholders and the AONB to look at the future of the this site in respect to recreation and access. We hope to approach the LAF for some formal advice shortly once the stakeholder group has met.
- We hope to bid for some National Forest funding from WG for project in our area once we know what is happening with the current case for change proposals in early November.
- For any queries please use the Land Management Team contact e mail:
forestsandnaturesoutheast@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

NOTE: For urgent or out of hrs incidents / reports use the Incident Control Centre (ICC) :

0300 065 3000 (24/7) [Natural Resources Wales / Report an incident](#)

Reporting off-road vehicles: contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk Call 101 @gwentpolice

2. Forest Operations update:

- Current program is focused on managing tree diseases, Larch & Ash die back, A few planned operations have now started in September due to bird nesting and other protection restrictions. Currently there are the following operations:

Live:

- 72936 Beacon Hill Larch removal.
- 7485 Chepstow Park Larch removal.
- 77674 Wentwood thinning.

Imminent:

- 72006 Wet Meadow thinning.
- 76957 Slade Larch removal.
- 77002 Wentwood thinning.

There is more information and maps on the NRW website here:
[Upcoming forestry and land management work, Northern and Southern Wye woodlands, Monmouthshire - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)

- To contract the Forest Operations team direct please use:

SEForest.operations@naturalresources.wales

Action points from meetings:

Serial & Type -Action -Decision -Note -Point	Owner	Subject:	Completed (if required)

Bob Campbell

[Uwch Swyddog Rheoli Tir](#) / Senior Officer, Land Management

[Gweithrediadau De Ddwyrain Cymru](#) / South East Wales Operations

[Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru](#) / Natural Resources Wales



MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 7 November 2024 OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. GRANTS

1.1 **Wales Coast Path Links and Loops** – An application for a £35,000 grant has been submitted. This project aims to look at improvements to 3 key link routes from the WCP.

1. Caldicot to Caldicot Pill
2. Magor to Rogiet Moor
3. Magor to Magor Pill

All three routes are key destinations within 3km of the WCP and should have access to them. Route 1 could connect the Wales Coast Path to the visitor hub at Caldicot Castle Country Park and on to the town centre. This is a multi-purpose 4m wide path running along the old MoD railway line. It is part of a phased scheme of improving access to Caldicot see MUR plan attached. The 2nd route is along a restricted byway to Magor and the third route from Magor to Magor Pill connects to the town and wildlife site.

It is proposed that a consultant is employed to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study. It will include WCP Quality and Least Restrictive Access standards. As well as consider things like:

- public transport connections
- Any requirements to ensure they are useable and clearly signed.
- Promotion of routes on the ground
- Impact on Biodiversity.

The appointed consultant will provide a consultation opportunity and a final report with all the necessary information to submit a further bid by 31ST March 2025.

1.2 **Wales Coast Path Least Restrictive Access Project** – Experience Community (EC) conducted an assessment of what changes could be made to make various Wales Coast Path sections more accessible for more people, using LRA principles (reports attached separately). Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and Newport City Council (NCC) were then supplied with comprehensive reports to highlight what alterations could be done on the ground to provide more accessible routes. It shows what improvements could be done.

However, in reality there are various restrictions and considerations needed to be covered before any work could be proposed on the ground, including; engagement with landowners, advice from groups (e.g. Disabled Ramblers, local community), land restrictions/designations (e.g. SSSI, Cadw) and relevant consultation.

It has been proposed that a Consultant is employed on a contract in order to undertake a feasibility report on how the work could be implemented, to include a costed analysis of ground work. There are 2 locations we propose to request the consultant to work on;

1. MCC: Rogiet to Black Rock as a circular route
2. NCC: Newport Wetlands

We propose to let a tender under MCC's procurement procedure using Sell to Wales for both sections and this will provide a regional collaborative approach.

The final report would be completed by 31st March 2025. It will complement the work being undertaken with Network Rail at Rogiet Country Park and the Wales Coast Path Links and Loops project.

- 1.2 **Access Improvement Grant** - This is the final year of a three-year grant relating to the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.
- 1.3 A training video has been made with Bethany Handley to show volunteers and others what to consider. A short social media message was also recorded. Whilst this was being recorded a video about Goytre Hall Woods was also made.

Other training video a that are in production are

- how to install a stile
- how to install a gate.

These last two are particularly important as this year we have delivered lots of structures to landowners who have requested more information. They will compliment the technical manual we already have and other authorities such as Powys, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire have requested to use it when it becomes available.

Volunteering – Up until the end of this October , in this financial year, Tom Arnold the Community Links Officer has completed 63 task days with volunteer groups. They have installed 36 waymark posts, 29 gates, 19 fingerposts, 40 steps and dealt with 101 safety issues, cleared 206 overgrown stiles/gates and cleared 5265m of vegetation. 3,355 m of which were

strimmed by volunteers who had training last year. This has involved 1188 hours of volunteer time.

1.5 Bridges

1.51 There are 1362 bridges as of 9 September on Monmouthshire's network. 282 of which need repair or replacement. There are 40 bridges closed by formal notice and others closed by the virtue of the bridge being missing. Bridges are only closed when they are known to be dangerous or to carry out works on them.

Some communities are worst affected by bridge closures or missing bridges than others.

COMMUNITY	Total No of Bridges	Unresolved
Llanhennock	114	8
Trellech United	57	12
Raglan	58	17
Llantilio Crossenny	70	26
Llanover	60	24
Llangattock vibon avel	90	34
Llanarth	35	19
Grosmont	87	32
Devauden	58	18
Mitchell Troy	85	20
Llantrisant Fawr	22	10
Shirenewton	22	9
Gwehelog	11	8
Llangwm	26	8
Llanbadoc Fawr	23	6
Llangybi	42	7
Monmouth	46	6
Tintern	21	5
Abergavenny	13	2
Crucorney	19	1
Goytre Fawr	12	1
Magor with Undy	11	3
Mathern	24	2
Caerwent	5	1
Caldicot	4	0

Chepstow	4	0
Llanfoist Fawr	3	1
Portskewett	3	0
Usk	2	1
St Arvans	1	0
Llandavenny	0	0
Llanelly	0	0
Rogiet	0	0

Bridges are predominantly the responsibility of Monmouthshire County Council.

All bridge work is prioritised according to the prioritisation used for all maintenance and enforcement issues and includes risk, usage, promotion and inconvenience. But when it comes to replacement, it also includes the possibility of diverting a path, whether there is another bridge nearby, cost and complexity. The benefits of replacing each bridge to the public as a whole are therefore very much taken into account when prioritising which bridges should be replaced first. However bridges are replaced out of order where grant conditions allow us to purchase or install a bridge as a part of for particular projects.

This year the bridge programme has been at the expense of other things getting done particularly with maintenance and grant projects. The bridge programme we are currently working on is the removal of 10 bridges. By removing the structure off site, it removes our public liability if a member of the public attempts to use the bridge to cross the water course. It will also mean that we won't need to continue issuing closure notices every 6 months reducing both admin costs and time commitment from staff.

1. 369/1, Hog's Head to Newhouse, Length - 18 metres(m)
2. 374/817, Cwmcarvan (Hay Bale), Length – 8 m
3. 368/23, Hunt Kennels, Pen yr Heol, Length – 9m
4. 374/25, Trefaldu Fishing Ponds, Length – 10m
5. 359/437, Glen Trothy, Length – 9m
6. 359/733, Lower Celliau, Length – 10m
7. 369/199, Sunnybank Farm (off driveway), Length – 12m
8. 372/103, Pill Farm Sewage Works, Length - 6.5m
9. 364/224, Llan Adan, Length – 8m
10. 369/269, TalyCoed, Length – 10m

Replace

It is proposed that the following bridges are removed and replaced with new steel beamed bridges and where necessary placed on steel H-frames.

1. 375/286, Dixton Church, Wye Valley Walk, Length – 7.5m
2. 371/114, Llantrisant Underpass to Yew Tree Cottage, Length – 6.5m
3. 366/18, Ton y Bedw, Length – 3m (possibly Field Wardens install)
4. 359/134, Trevyr, Grosmont, Length – 7.5m
5. 359/750, Roanoak, Grosmont, Length – 7.5m
6. 357/497, Wern, llansoy, Length – 6.5m
7. 366/371, Walnut Tree Farm, Llandegveth, Length – 6m
8. 373/231, Wales Coast Path Railway crossing to Tuttymead Wood, Length – 7m
9. 377/244, The Cayo, Raglan, Length – 6m
10. 382/997, Woolpitch Wood, Trellech, Length – 6.5m
11. 357/169, Llangunnog, Tor y Mynydd, Length – 7m
12. 359/580, Little Pool Hall, off Offas Dyke National Trail, Length – 10m
13. 360/75, Coedcae, The Bont, Length – 8m
14. 377/458, Old Llanishen Farm to The Homestaed, Length – 4m (possibly Field Wardens install)
15. 374/99, Lower Llantrothy, Length – 4.5m (possibly Field Wardens install)

Further Assessment

The following bridges will be surveyed and assessed using a qualified structural engineer to provide reports on the feasibility of a new bridge along with costings to carry out such works.

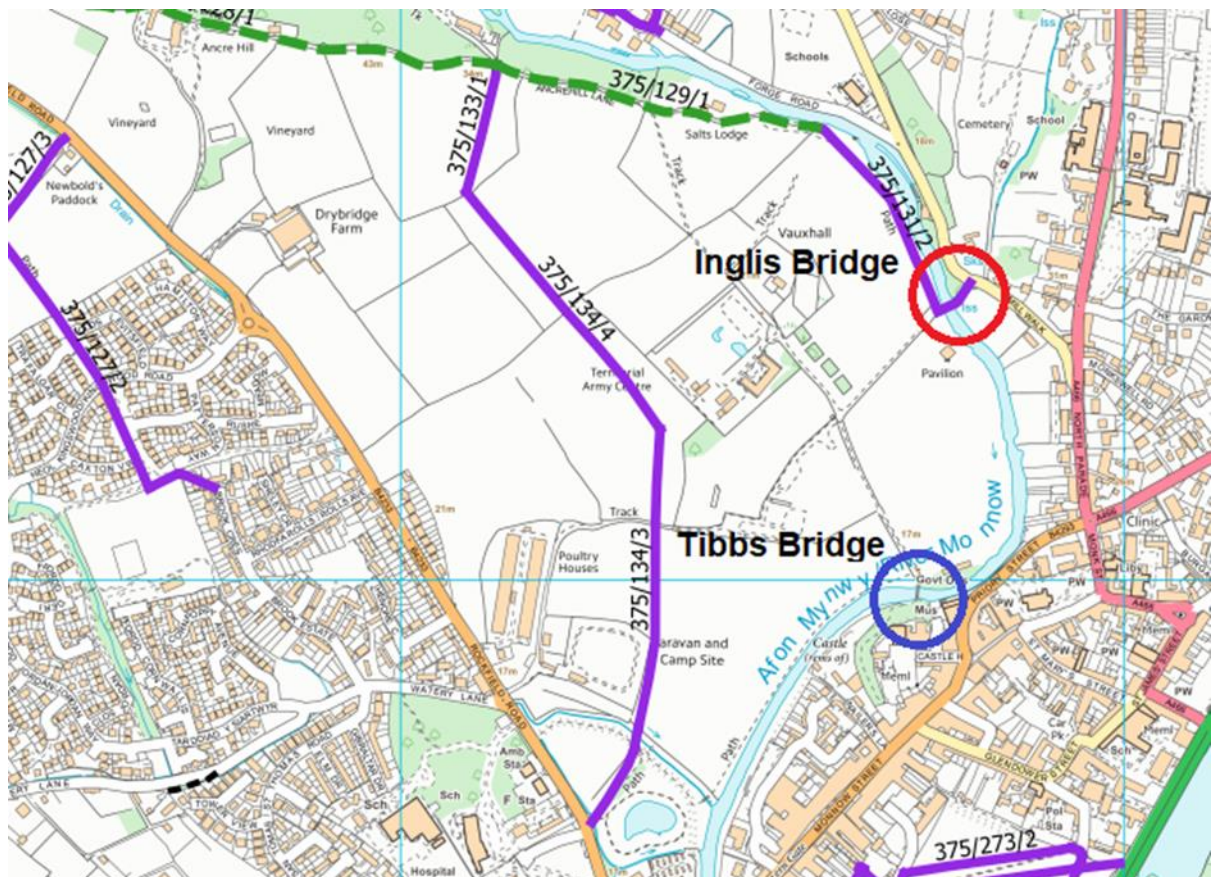
1. 359/568, Crossways to Mill Farm Bridleway Bridge, Length 10m
2. 369/269, Talycoed, Length – 10m
3. 369/1, Hog's Head to New House, Length – 18m
4. 369/199, Sunnybank Farm, Length – 12m

1.52 Specific Bridge Projects

In March 2023 the Treadam bridge (Pant y Colyn Farm 359/239/1) was removed due to dangerous piers. A diversion is currently in place and is well signed. The works on the banks are nearing completion and the new bridge has been installed. However the ramps still need repair and issues have been caused by flooding and the wet weather.



1.5.2 **Inglis Bridge Monmouth** – This is a Grade II Listed Structure owned by the MoD over which Footpath 131 Monmouth runs, connecting Vauxhall Fields to Osbaston.



Inglis Bridge was built in 1931 to replace an old wooden bridge called the white bridge that was built in 1905. It was built by the NO.2 Company of the Monmouthshire Regiment. It was maintained by the MoD because it marked the entrance to the headquarters of the Royal Monmouthshire Engineers at Vauxhall Field. It was last refurbished in 1998 by the same regiment.

Although Inglis Bridge is a vehicular bridge, it has been closed to vehicles for some time. The bridge is a listed structure and is extremely well used. It provides user friendly access to Vauxhall Fields and to the school. It is also been identified as an Active Travel , Future Walking and Cycling Route.

image of the Inglis Bridge prior to its closure to vehicles.



The Footpath was initially closed with an emergency closure notice dated 13th September 2024 but is now closed by temporary traffic regulation order for up to 6 months.

The bridge was closed following an MoD inspection that revealed the following defects:

- Timber deck boards are rotten in multiple locations.
- A supporting transverse timber beam is missing.
- The mesh surface to the timber deck is lifting in several locations and due to the rotten deck boards, cannot be fixed down and so now present a trip hazard.
- Several timber edge beams are also suffering advanced stages of rot.

An alternative route via Tibbs bridge exists on the ground but this route does not carry recorded public access rights and is not as accessible or convenient. A local petition with over a 1000 names has been submitted requesting urgent action.

The Countryside Access Service are liaising with the MoD regarding the costs (estimated at £360,000) , timetable and a partnership approach to ensure that the bridge is repaired urgently.

Llangua Bridge Grosmont - WSP have been commissioned by Monmouthshire County Council to assess potential replacement crossing points for footpath 116, Grosmont, across the River Monnow near Llangua, which was removed in 2017 due to the unsafe condition of the bridge.

Final reports are expected by end of this month, but the Geomorphological study has shown three possible locations for a new bridge only one of which is in Monmouthshire and none of these are in the same location as where the original bridge was located.

Welsh Government Legislative Changes Update

Monmouthshire County Council has been contributing to the Welsh Government Digital Working Group which was set up to look at producing an All Wales Digital Map. Two meetings have occurred to date.

As background, the key purpose of the DMWG is to provide expert technical advice on the development of a single statutory map of areas legally accessible to the public in Wales that are used primarily for outdoor recreation.

To start this journey towards a single statutory map of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in Wales, the Welsh Government Geography Team (DataMapWales (DMW)) have offered to unify any digital spatial datasets of PRoW and essential permissive PRoW into a single digital map, held by Local Authorities or National Park Authorities. This map will then act as a digital working copy for PRoW in Wales.

DMW will manage this working copy and make it available to local authorities to use on its own, or in combination with other datasets that will be made available to you on DMW, or that you hold yourselves, such as flood alleviation, housing development, areas of deprivation, etc...

Welsh Government intend holding a number of virtual stakeholder engagement events in the second half of January 2025 to explain their plans in more detail, and to showcase the digital map we are aiming to produce as a 1st phase. These events will also allow them to outline some of the map's applications and how they will be beneficial to organisations.

Ruth Rourke
Countryside Access Manager
ruthrourke@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Introduction

Andy Powell

Countryside Access Management Officer/Rights of Way Field Officer
Countryside Access Team (CAT)

The Countryside Access Team

- ▶ Office Team and Outdoor Team
- ▶ Outdoor Team
- ▶ Based in Raglan
- ▶ Countryside Access Management Officer
- ▶ Rights of Way Field Officer
- ▶ Field Wardens
- ▶ Community Links Officer

Role and Responsibilities

- ▶ Countryside Sites - 9 sites
- ▶ PRow Network - over 2000kms
- ▶ Manage
- ▶ Maintain
- ▶ Promote
- ▶ Bridges - 1362

Bridges

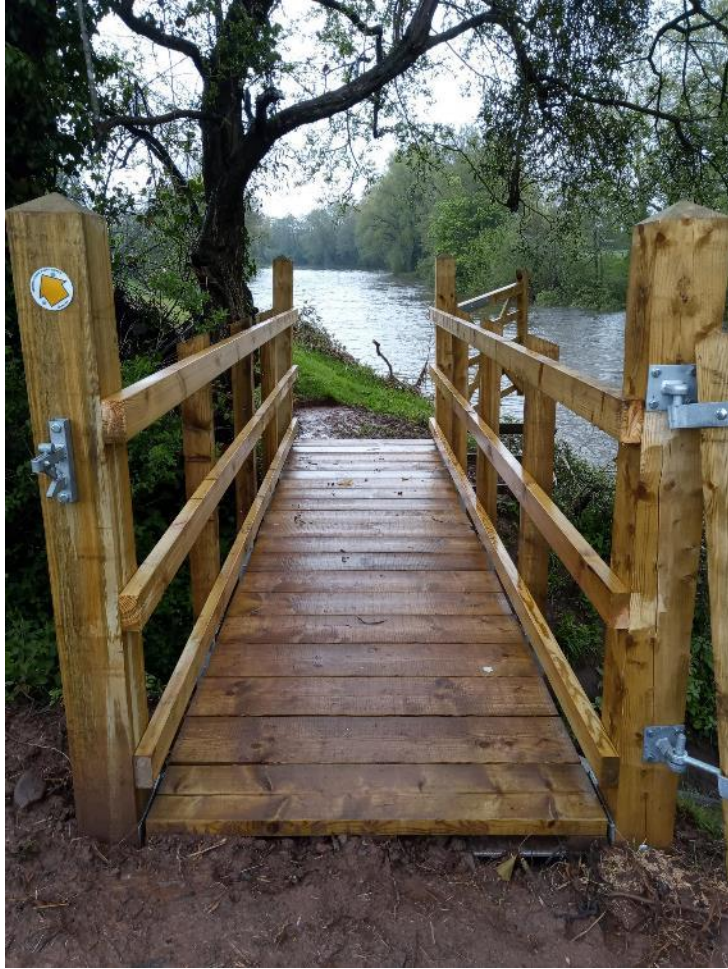
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Various types
- ▶ Sizes





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Manage and Maintain

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- ▶ Inspections
- ▶ Further inspection
- ▶ Maintenance work
- ▶ Closures
- ▶ Management List
 - ▶ Monitor
 - ▶ Repair
 - ▶ Remove
 - ▶ Replace
 - ▶ Long term closure





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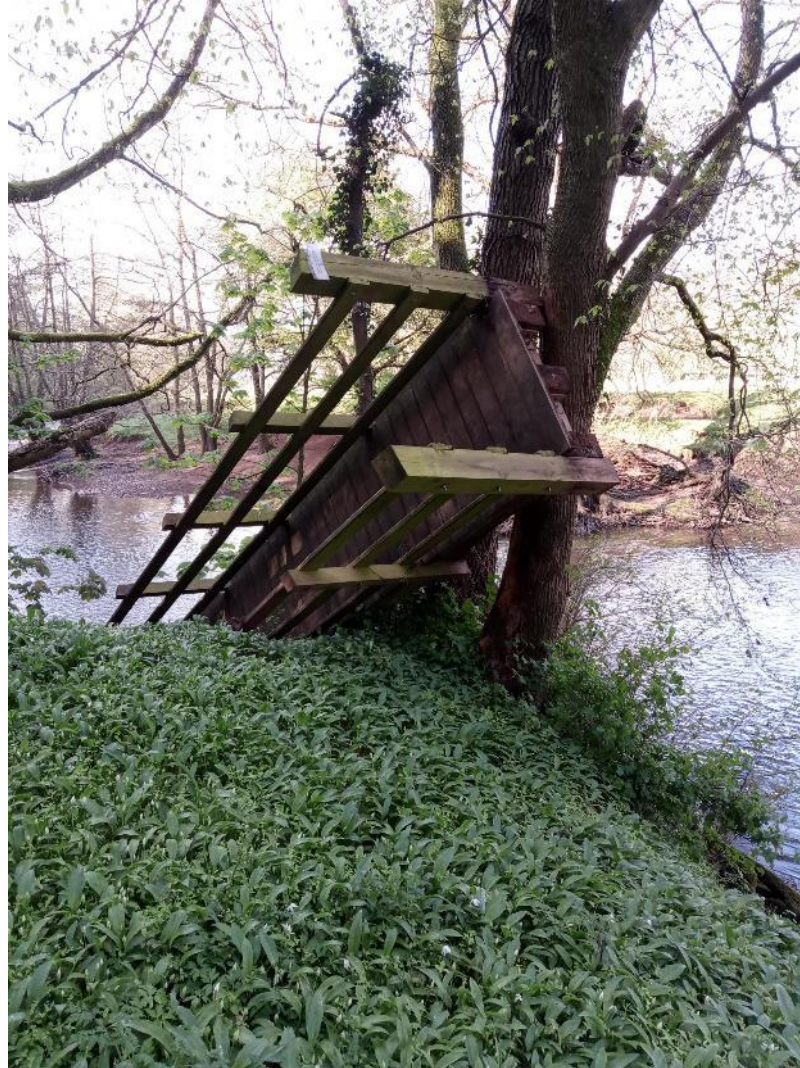


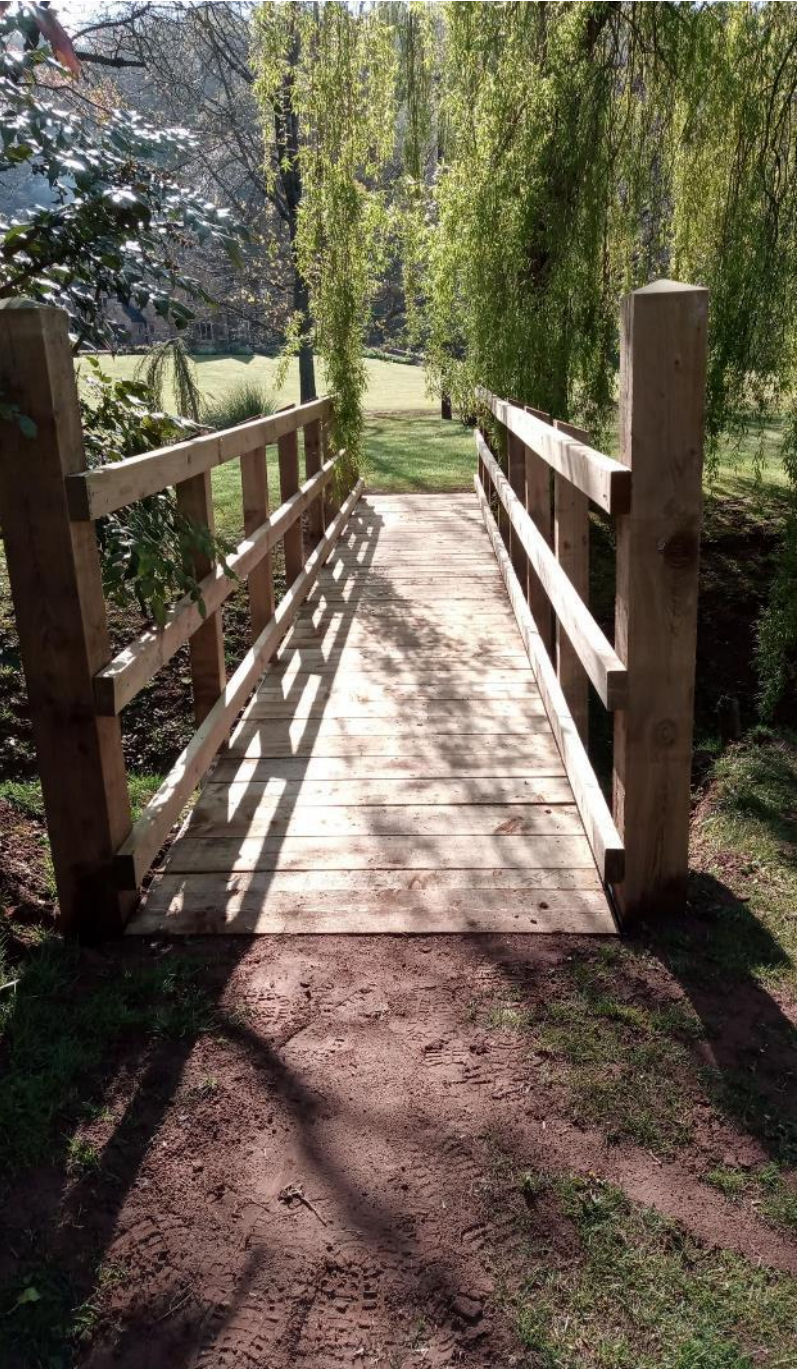


Remove and Replace

- ▶ Process
- ▶ Source funding
- ▶ Bridge
- ▶ Contractor
- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Landowner
- ▶ Issues
- ▶ Success

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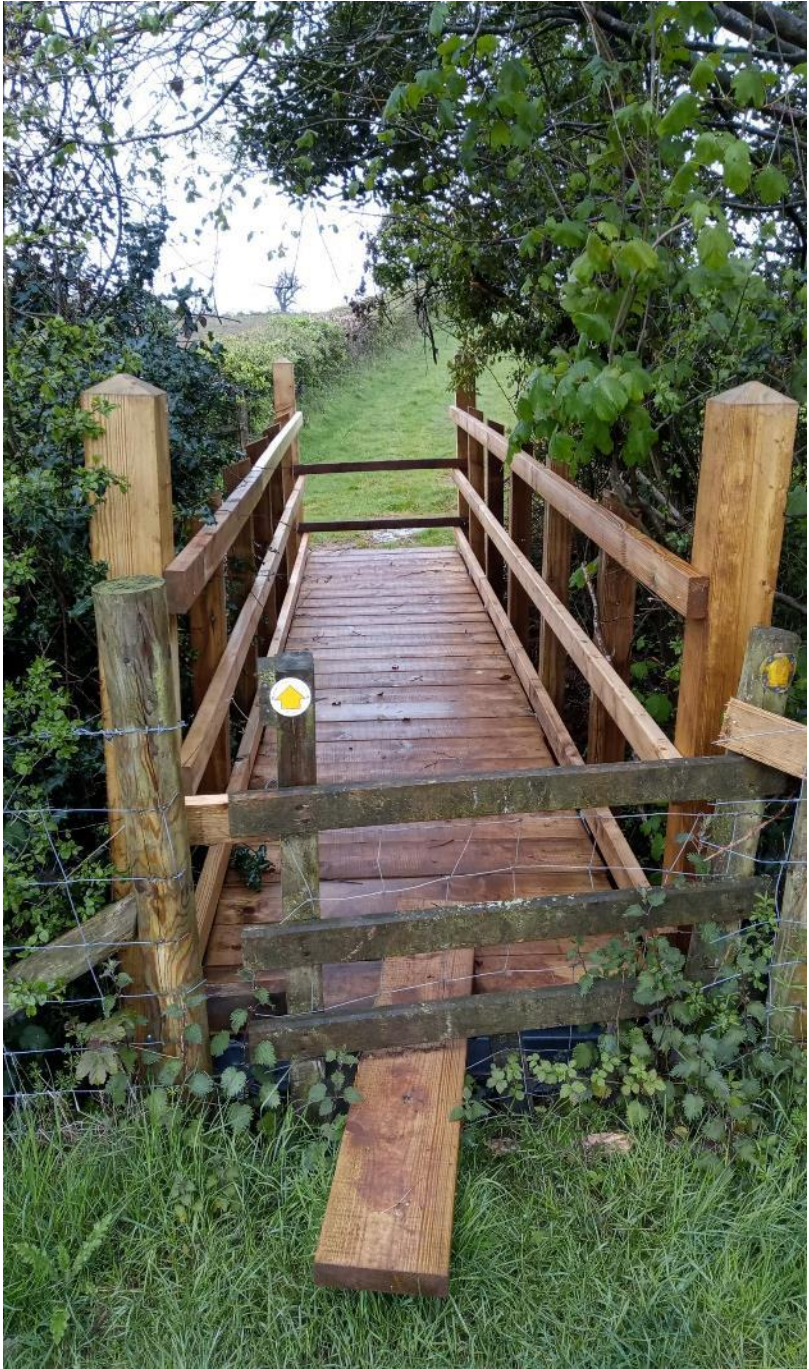








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Summary -2024/25

- ▶ Asset Management Plan

- ▶ Funding

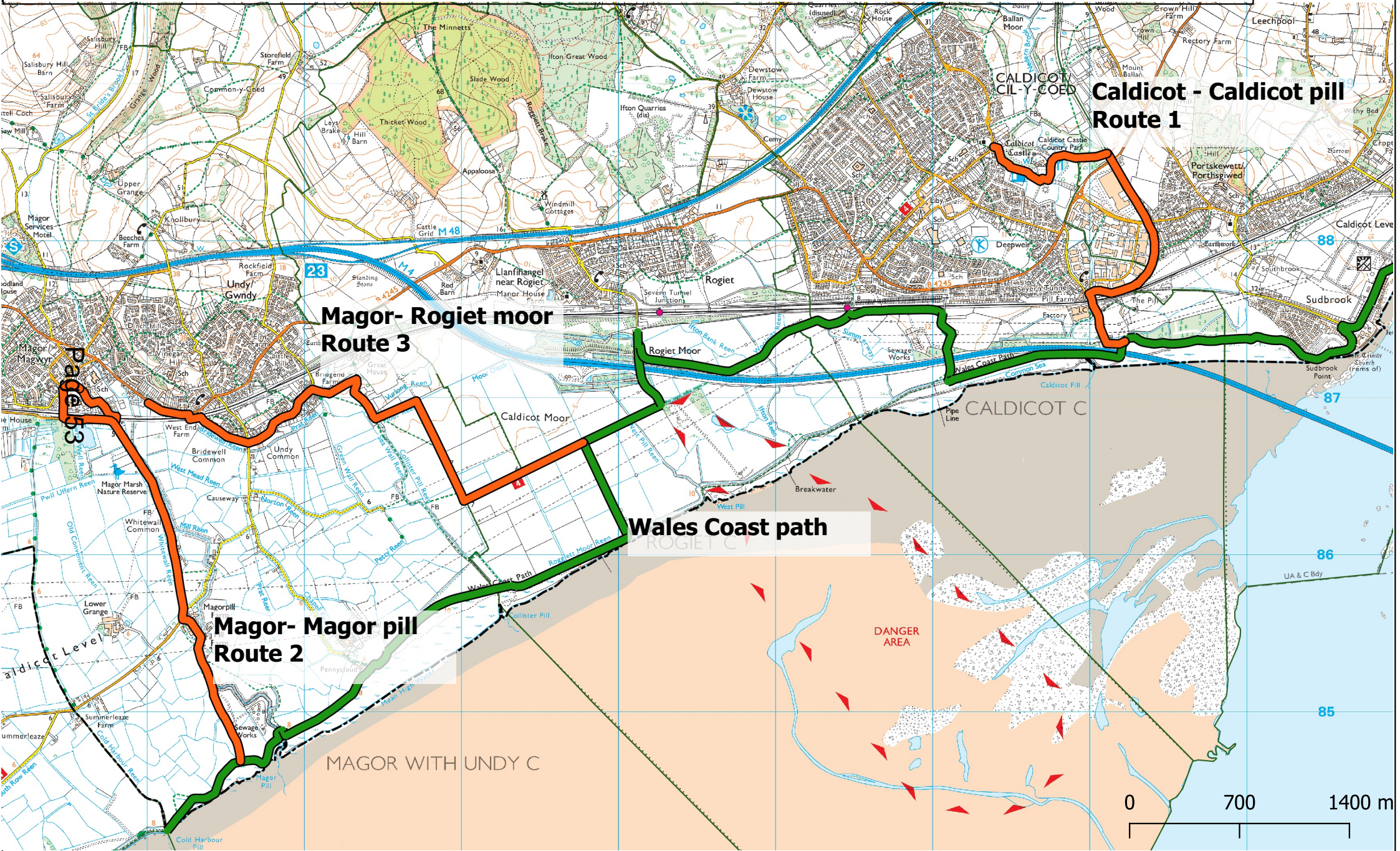
- ▶ Remove - 10
- ▶ Replace - possibly 15
- ▶ Further Assessment - 4
- ▶ Subject to funding

Questions

- ▶ Contact details

- ▶ Andy Powell 07967 002777

- ▶ andrewpowell@monmouthshire.gov.uk



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