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9th September 2026

Notice of meeting Local Access Forum

Wednesday, 16th September, 2026 at 10.00 am,
Clydach Ironworks, Station Road, Clydach, Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire, NP7 0LR

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence / Introductions.	1 - 6
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	To confirm and sign the minutes of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum meeting of the 10th June 2026 (attached).	
4.	LAF Annual Report.	
5.	Clydach Ironworks site visit and consultation response.	
6.	LAF written contribution questions.	7 - 14
6.1.	Countryside Access Operational Update.	
6.2.	NRW Operational Update.	
7.	Confirmation of dates and timing of next meeting and locations.	

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
Barbara Heys
Ian Mawdsley
Terence Mead
Sallie Roderick
Jack Thurston
Kelvin Varney
Huw Watkins
Rhys Wynne-Jones
John Askew
County Councillors: Tony Easson

Public Information

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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

Barbara Heys

Ian Mawdsley

Terence Mead

Sallie Roderick

Jack Thurston

Kelvin Varney

Huw Watkins

Rhys Wynne-Jones

John Askew

County Councillor Tony Easson

Observers;

Representatives from Monmouthshire County Council and Natural Resources Wales

Monmouthshire County Council Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum

Held at Innovation house, Wales1 Business Park, Newport Rd,
Caldicot NP26 3DG

on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 10.00 am

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Phillip Allsopp	PA	
Irene Brooke	IB	
Anthony Easson	AE	
Barbara Heys		BH
Ian Mawdsley	IM	
Phil Mundell (chair)	PM	
Sallie Roderick	SR	
Jack Thurston	JT	
Anne Underwood	AU	
Kelvin Varney		KV

ADVISERS/OBSERVERS

Richard Garner, Local Access Forum Secretary	RG
Colette Bosley, Monmouthshire County Council	CB
Ruth Rourke, Monmouthshire County Council	RER
Richard Ray, Monmouthshire County Council	RR
Andy Powell Monmouthshire County Council	AP
Tom Arnold Monmouthshire County Council	TA
Ross Emery, Monmouthshire County Council	RE
Bob Campbell, Natural Resources Wales (online)	BC
And two members of the public/observers	

Welcome

LAF meeting opened with RG going through general housekeeping, including recording of transcript of meeting for the purpose of helping with minutes, all present agreed to this.

1. Apologies for Absence/introductions

Apologies were received from Anthea Fairey (AF), Sarah Tindal (ST), John Askew (JA), Shan Lewis (SL), Huw Watkins (HW), Terence Mead (TM), and Rhys Wynne-Jones (RWJ).

The secretary read out the letter of resignation form Bethany Handley for the Forum,

Action: Write to BH to express the LAF's best wishes for her health for the future - RG

2. Declarations of Interest

None received

3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum meeting of 11th February 2026.

The minutes of the previous meeting had not been fully circulated in advance and were therefore provided during the meeting. Following review, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record and accepted.

4. Tracks and Trails Project Update

BH on behalf of the Tracks and Trails Subgroup, provided an update on progress during its meetings held on the 25th February and on site on the 26th May 2026. Four priority routes have been identified in the Tintern and Whitebrook areas for action, namely, Grove Road/Horseway, Maypole Road cluster and Tintern rd and Chapel Hill rd. Three of these sites were visited alongside Wye Valley National Landscape (NL) and Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) officers,.

Initial actions to be progressed include:

- Erection of improved signage using both new and existing infrastructure
- To, as a pilot, install two AI-assisted cameras, at two locations, to monitor levels and types of use, at an approximate cost of £11,000. It is envisaged that the monitoring equipment will be able to give valuable information on the type and frequency of usage on these routes
- NL will also be looking to create a central hub website to hold supporting information for users including guidance on lawful use and how to best report antisocial behaviour.
- The subgroup is also planning to deliver two workshops for local residents later in the summer (moved from June and July) to encourage engagement and reporting of issues.

During discussion, IM raised concerns regarding the pace and scale of the work being undertaken by NL, particularly in the absence of a clearly defined project plan and milestones. Concerns were also expressed regarding capacity, given the limited staffing resource available and issues that this could create at any workshops with the community. IM has also volunteered to assist with the drafting of a Code of Practice as an initial, achievable output.

IB echoed concerns about the lack of clarity, particularly around legal input, and noted a growing lack of confidence in delivery. PM queried responsibility for progressing the work, which in answer should sit with NL, while CB emphasised that these matters would be more appropriately addressed through the Steering Group rather than the full LAF.

There was general agreement that the project requires a more robust and realistic plan.

ACTION: LAF to request project plan and monitoring via meeting with NL and MCC through sub group- LAF Sub Group

A specific discussion took place regarding Glynwood Road. IB raised queries about the current position, and RR confirmed that a consultation is currently underway regarding the Traffic regulation order (TRO) being revoked. It was noted by members that previous consultations on the traffic regulation order had taken place in 2019 and again informally in 2023 to the LAF. There was disappointment that this one had not also been sent to LAF members, although it had been sent to the Tracks and trails steering group.

JT and SR highlighted that the previous order had been challenged and has resulted in the current revoking of the TRO, a request was made for full transparency so that lessons can be learned for future potential TRO's, however RR indicated that MCC was unable to currently give further than what has been provided due to it being an active legal case. The deadline for responses to the consultation is the 17th June 2026.

ACTION: To send to LAF information/consultation on Glyn wood road link- RG

ACTION: To send letter to MCC highways regarding LAF being consulted on TRO revocation-PM

5. Volunteering update and issues arising current position, and future proofing

Establishment of improvement sub-group

(Andy Powell, Tom Arnold & Ross Emery, Monmouthshire county council)

AP, TA, and RE provided an update on volunteering activity and future development with associated presentation (attached online under item 5) on a number of works undertaken with volunteers, volunteer groups and also with businesses, such as recent work with National grid.

AP put forward a request to the LAF for their support by raising the profile for vital funding needed to continue and enhance this work, especially with the uncertainty around the access improvement grant, which is due to currently conclude in April 2027. An action in this regard was put forward for the LAF to contact the Welsh government Senedd member responsible for this area and the local representatives.

The Forum acknowledged the significant positive impact of the community links officers and project, the increased volunteer contribution and support, including delivery of access improvements, provision of training (including use of power tools), and partnership working with NRW.

PM commended the progress made and the tangible outcomes achieved. JT requested supporting data and case studies to strengthen future advocacy and communications, including use in social media. SR noted the benefits of engaging local businesses to support this work, particularly where tasks are complex or time-consuming. KV suggested that a similar model could be applied to Unclassified County Roads (UCRs), while PA highlighted the potential for support from Community and Town Councils both in regard to support and potential grant funding for projects.

CB noted the need to ensure long-term sustainability, particularly in the context of limited resources and thanked the LAF for its support and ideas.

AP then highlighted the importance of improving accessibility across Monmouthshire, noting that most members will be aware of individuals who would benefit from improved access. A proposal was put forward to establish a small subgroup to focus on accessibility, including as an initial action, identifying suitable routes and developing photo or video-based promotional materials or similar. There was support from the LAF for this to proceed.

ACTION: To forward details of contacts in Welsh government to the Chair - RER

ACTION: For a letter from the LAF to be sent to Welsh government around future support and funding for access - PM

ACTION: To seek expressions of interest for an accessibility subgroup – RG

ACTION: Set up subgroup, membership, terms of reference, initial actions, timescales. - RG & Subgroup

6. Natural Resources Wales update for information purposes

(Bob Campbell Senior Officer Land Management, South East Wales)

This item was changed to item 6 on the agenda instead of Item 7 due to speakers time constraints.

BC (Natural Resources Wales) provided a remote operational update to the Forum. Initial technical issues with audio were resolved, and RC proceeded to summarise key activities across his area. He reported that routine work continues, including ongoing tree safety operations. A particular issue was highlighted along the “365 steps” route, where ash dieback is resulting in failing trees. Management of this area is complex due to its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and additional funding is being sought to address the risks.

Updates were also provided on site works and environmental management. The replacement of Coppice mawr Bridge has been completed and the route is now reopened. Birch clearance at Beacon Hill is ongoing, alongside the continuation of cattle grazing to support heathland restoration. These measures are showing positive ecological outcomes, with increased nightjar numbers recorded. Work to the ancient monument is also nearing completion, and funding has been secured to improve accessibility at Whitestone, particularly to support less mobile users along key routes.

In terms of forward planning, BC outlined a programme of forestry operations expected to begin in September, including thinning works in Hendra Forest, Chepstow area, and parts of Beacon Hill. He also noted that further public drop-in sessions would be arranged to allow stakeholders to review plans and raise site-specific queries. Members were invited to follow up directly with NRW outside the meeting for any detailed questions.

RG confirmed the written report had been circulated and suggested that, due to time constraints, any further queries be submitted via email. The Forum thanked BC for his update.

7. Goytre hall wood project, woodland improvement grant (TWIG funding)

(Colette Bosley, Monmouthshire county council) *(Presentation attached to agenda)*

This item was changed to item 7 on the agenda instead of Item 6 due to the previous speakers time constraints.

CB provided an update on the Goytre Hall Wood Project, noting that there was a successful grant bid for the Woodland Improvement Grant (TWIG funding). Work is progressing to establish a volunteer or 'Friends of' group to support the site, with planned engagement involving the Local Access Forum (LAF) and the wider community. Proposed activities include green skills training, bioblitz events, and other community-focused initiatives. The project is being led by MCC officers; Elliot Waters, with Gareth John responsible for site management.

A community survey will be issued in due course to support further engagement and communications. Members were encouraged to contact CB if they, or anyone they know, would be interested in getting involved. In response to a query from PM regarding potential closures, it was confirmed that minor, temporary closures may be required to facilitate tree management works.

8. LAF future work programme for review and updating

This item was overviewed alongside item 9, the Annual Report, however due to a technical delay in getting this to LAF members it was felt this would be better deferred, presented and approved at the next LAF meeting.

ACTION: add to agenda for next LAF meeting -RG

9. LAF Annual Report

This item was overviewed alongside item 8, LAF future work programme, however due to a technical delay in getting this to LAF members it was felt this would be better deferred, presented and approved at the next LAF meeting.

ACTION: add to agenda for next LAF meeting-RG

10. LAF Written contribution questions.

Operational update countryside access- Progress in implementing the approved Countryside access improvement plan was sent via email to the LAF, no queries were raised at the meeting, however there was a technical delay in getting this sent out to the LAF - any questions to be forwarded to RR.

A written question arose from IB regarding the LAF being included as consultees for Definitive map modification orders (DMMO's). A written response was sent to IB by RG, which was shared with the LAF: That it was possible for individuals to receive consultations, but there was a cost associated with this, IB raised that this was communicated at a previous meeting but a full response was not received at the time, RER indicated that this was queried internally but without response, that she would chase this up again.

That all DMMOs were available as part of the register online on the Monmouthshire website, That any consultations for DMMOs were also made available on the Monmouthshire website, IB queried whether the full reports are also available, to which RG confirmed consultations include the full report.

RG also indicated that it may be possible to create notifications to members via the My Monmouthshire service of any consultations, to which he will look into further and report back. Finally, the long overdue CAMs interactive map expansion has overcome one of the final barriers around document sharing, and as such will centrally hold all the DMMO's, public path orders, Temporary closures and Section 31 deposits. It is hopeful that this will be presented to the LAF at the next meeting.

ACTION: Disseminate costs and process for signing up for consultations on DMMOS - RER

ACTION: Share current location of DMMO's and consultations – RG

ACTION: Look into auto notification for new consultations - RG

11. Dates and timing of next meetings and locations

Next two meeting dates agreed as:

10am on Wednesday 16th September 2026

10am on Wednesday 2nd December 2026

Venue to be confirmed

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MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

September 2026

Countryside Access Service Delivery Update

Monmouthshire's Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2020-2030 (CAIP) sets out shared objectives for the county's rights of way network, countryside sites and wider public access. The plan is based on detailed research, analysis and extensive consultation with the public and stakeholders. It is ambitious and realistic about the challenges faced, but contributes to making Monmouthshire a healthier, more prosperous and enjoyable place in which to live and visit. The delivery of the plan is monitored by Monmouthshire Local Access Forum and this delivery update is produced to help with this on-going task.

Staff News – Morag Sinton Volunteer Co-ordinator has been on a sabbatical for the past year. She has decided not to return and officially left on 1st September 2026. Morag helped establish Pathcare and the Pathcare walking Group. David Holtham has been her replacement and will continue to fulfil the role until the end of this financial year.

Well Maintained

- **Green flags** were awarded for Castle Meadows and Rogiet CP.
- **Thirty bridges** have been installed around the county and these are currently being visited to check they are installed correctly and to fit any gates or ramps required. This should be completed by the end of September.
- **Crossways Bridleway bridge** and surfacing have been completed.
- **Stile Monitoring** – Work has started to enable us to create a quarterly report to monitor furniture changes and track removal of stiles.
- We will be looking at providing **bridge inspection training** for volunteers in the spring. Further information will be provided nearer the time.
- Cutting contracts took place in August for Usk Valley Walk and Wye Valley Walk
- A second **pro-active clearance scheme** is currently underway.
- **Devil's Bridge, Clydach**. – Tenders have been received and contract for bridge works awarded. Inception meeting to be held shortly.
- **Inglis Bridge Re-opens**.

Inglis Bridge reopened to pedestrians at the end July, following the completion of major refurbishment works. Currently the bridge has block stone in place to prevent vehicular access and in September these are being placed with bollards.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony (left to right): Catherine Jones, Head of Osbaston Primary School, with two pupils, Catherine Fookes MP for Monmouthshire, Leader of Monmouthshire County Council, Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, Cllr Rob Barrell, Mayor of Monmouth, Lt Col. Steve Little, Royal Monmouth Royal Engineers Monmouthshire (Militia), Cllr Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism for Monmouthshire County Council.

The reopening marked an important milestone for the Monmouth community, restoring a valued pedestrian link that has been closed since September 2024 after safety concerns were identified. The bridge is an important route for residents, schoolchildren, and visitors, connecting communities across the River Monnow.

To celebrate the work coming to an end, an event was held at the site, which included pupils and staff from Osbaston Primary School. They were joined at the event by the local Member of Parliament, Catherine Fookes MP, and the Mayor of Monmouth, Cllr Rob Barrell, Monmouthshire County Council's Leader, Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, Cllr Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism, and Ministry of Defence contractors whose work has helped make the bridge crossing open once again.

Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of Monmouthshire County Council, said: "We know how important Inglis Bridge is to the people of Monmouth and understand how much residents have missed this vital link. We are delighted that the bridge is now reopened and would like to thank the Ministry of Defence, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Wales, contractors and all partners who have worked together to reach this point.



Above: Monmouth Town Councillors and County Councillors gather with Monmouth Mayor Cllr Rob Barrell, Catherine Fookes MP, Monmouthshire County Council Leader Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, and Cabinet Members Cllr Ian Chandler, Cllr Catrin Maby, Cllr Angela Sandles and Cllr Sara Burch, with Lt Col Steve Little of the Royal Monmouth Royal Engineers Monmouthshire (Militia).

Cllr Rob Barrell, Mayor of Monmouth said: "Monmouth Town Council is delighted to see the refurbishment of Inglis Bridge coming to an end. As the only remaining bridge of its kind still in public use, it is both a unique part of Monmouth's heritage and a vital link for residents, schoolchildren and walkers. I would like to thank the MOD for providing the funding that made this project possible. I was also impressed by the care taken to protect the River Monnow during the works, with the bridge removed to a nearby location for refurbishment to avoid any risk of contamination."

Owned by the Ministry of Defence, Inglis Bridge is a unique and historic structure that has long served as an important pedestrian crossing for the local community. Monmouthshire County Council has worked closely with the Ministry of Defence, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Wales and other stakeholders throughout the project to support progress towards reopening the bridge safely.

Community Involvement and Partnership Development

Countryside Site Consultations



A walk and Talk was held on Saturday 5th September at Clydach Gorge. Participants heard about the history of the site and future plans. Walks and talks were held at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Throughout September, we're inviting local residents and visitors to Clydach Ironworks to share their views on the historic site and most importantly what ideas there are for improvements.

We want to consider accessibility, signage, how the site is managed, used and what improvements are required. Short and long term project ideas are being sought. Ideas and suggestions will help ensure any plans for the site reflect what visitors feel would benefit the site and its place in the local landscape.

If you go to [Let's Talk Clydach Ironworks](#) | [Let's Talk Monmouthshire](#) you can find out more about proposals for the site and participate in the survey.

The survey runs from Tuesday 1 September, until midnight on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

Protecting and Enhancing Goytre Hall Wood

Goytre Hall Wood covers around 3.5 hectares and is a restored ancient woodland providing valuable habitat for wildlife and a peaceful place to enjoy nature and is a short walk from the canal. The site



is managed by the Countryside Service. It faces a number of challenges from tree diseases, invasive species, changing environmental conditions. We are looking to carry out targeted management and restoration to improve the woodlands resilience and ensure the site flourishes in years to come.

Grant funding has been found to conduct a range of projects including improving paths, seating and interpretation. Advice from Bethany Handley a former LAF representative has been included in the project, such as providing a disabled parking bay.

For further information and to complete the short consultation on what matters most to you at the woods go to [Goytre Hall Wood Restoration](#) | [Let's Talk Monmouthshire](#)

Throughout the project there will be activities and opportunities to be involved in the project. We would like to create a volunteer group for the site. If you are interested in volunteering opportunities at this site, please contact: GarethJohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Community Link Volunteers

- The Community Links Officers and Volunteer groups have been busy with various projects. One notable project at Dingestow will connect four farms. Films are being produced to showcase the work being undertaken, promote accessible routes and the doorstep opportunities being provided. Filming took place in mid-August with Chepstow volunteers and Grosmont volunteers at the end of August. Pontypool volunteers are being filmed in September with other groups now being scheduled in.
- Llanbadoc Volunteers have surveyed and began clearance on changed Pathcare route 14.
- Grosmont Group have conducted lots of clearance on promoted routes and install three metal fingerposts on Three Castle Walk.
- Friends of Castle Meadows: - clearance and tidying
- Llanishen: - 2 gates installed, small bridge and path vegetation cleared in day two of the Dufryn project.
- Pontypool Ramblers: - replaced four bad stiles with four pedestrian gates and other improvements on Dingestow route.
- Llangybi Volunteer Group have been replaced two stiles at Llangybi Castle Farm.
- Whitecastle Volunteer Group – Installed earth steps and undertaken clearance. Identified an alternative path, to bypass the currently closed Tal-y-coed bridge, connecting the village to the local pub/restaurant. 2 stiles were replaced for gates, and permission was obtained from landowner to use permissive path.
- A new Volunteer group at Tregare Community has been identified.
- Several task days were cancelled in the fifth heatwave.
- Self-supervised task days continued whilst the Community Links Officers were on leave in August.
- Ongoing work continuing re potential for Living Levels Grant in 2027, which would enable a walking festival and more volunteers to be established.
- Tuesday volunteer maintenance group continues to expand, and a new team (affectionally known as team “Bravo”) has been receiving training.
- Two new CAMS volunteers have come forward. Training is occurring in September.

Knowing What’s Out There.

- Current MCC website version of Section 53B Register has been updated. [Definitive Map Modification Orders Register - Monmouthshire](#)
- CAMS work to install new public registers is nearing completion. Testing will be held in late September for a launch in the Autumn.

Wales Coast Path - Record your journey on the path



The official Wales Coast Path app has a map showing where the path goes and where you are on the path. Record your walks whilst on the path or add them into the app later - handy if you are too tired after a long day walking.

The app will help prevent getting lost on the path and tracks your progress - showing how much of each region you have completed and of the entire path - handy to know where else you need to tick off! [More details about the app](#) (available on iOS and Android).

Are you a business on the path?

Read the [latest business bulletin](#) (Autumn) dedicated to helping to maximise business opportunities on the path. Access free, easy to use and downloadable partner marketing materials to generate more footfall and be seen by more customers from the path.

[Subscribe to business bulletins](#) with your email address and go to "Projects" and tick the box for Wales Coast Path. Business e-bulletins are open to all sectors with an interest in the path.



Chepstow Autumn Walking Festival 23-25 October



Discover the best of Monmouthshire, with walks exploring local produce, trig points, geology, wildlife and much more. There are also Festival Fring Events.

Visit the website for more information and booking.

[Chepstow Autumn Walking Festival - Walking Event in Chepstow, Chepstow - Visit Monmouthshire](#)

[Chepstow Walking Festival 2025](#)



Wales Coast Path Collaboration & Visit - Newfoundland, Canada

- Our friends in Newfoundland, Canada are building their own coast path and visited the Wales Coast Path and our partners who make it happen.

Here is a [write up of their visit](#) to see "how Wales did it". There was lots of learning from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean!

Other News

Mapping Litter: - The University of Gloucestershire are developing a project to map litter across the UK. The Wye Valley AONB and MCC Countryside Access think it is a good idea and will encouraging our volunteers to get involved. Let us know if you are interested.

<https://fast-litter.org/>

[Active Travel England Rural Design Guide](#) This Rural Design Guide, produced by Active Travel England (ATE), provides technical guidance on planning and designing walking, wheeling and cycling routes and facilities in rural areas. This guidance is intended primarily for local authorities but can be used by anyone with an interest in making active travel an attractive option in rural areas. This could include local people making short trips to reach everyday destinations such as work, school or the shops, as well as people visiting the countryside for recreation.

Connecting people to local spaces - Ramblers Cymru

From Community Development Officer, Wales/Rebecca Brough, Policy and Advocacy Manager.

Here is an overview of two Ramblers Cymru community projects: the Carmarthenshire Pathways partnership and the Walks for Women project in North Wales.

The Carmarthenshire Pathways project aimed to train volunteers to survey lower-priority paths and provide Carmarthenshire County Council with baseline network data. Members heard that 149 volunteers were trained, more than eighty volunteers conducted at least one survey, around 920 kilometres of paths were surveyed, 149 issues were resolved, and thirty-five stiles were replaced with gates. Heather explained that the project had moved into a third year focused on an "adopt a path" model, with targets including twenty path adoptions, engagement with fifty new volunteers, monthly "snipping strolls", ranger days and volunteer thank-you events.

The Walks for Women project, initially funded through an Active North Wales Innovation Grant and aimed at increasing activity among young women aged 18 to 25 in Holyhead, Rhyl and Wrexham.

Heather explained that the project had learned that partnership working was more effective than general advertising to individuals.

The project had worked particularly well with the Barod project and had now been extended to September 2027. In its second phase, the project remains women-only but has widened the age range to women aged eighteen and over. The strongest current partnership is with the North Wales Women's Centre in Rhyl, where forty women had engaged since March and a regular weekly group had developed. The project is considering sustainability, including walk leader training, and is continuing to explore opportunities in Wrexham and Holyhead.

Useful information

Public Rights of Way Working Map [Public Rights of Way - Public Rights of Way Map](#)

[Countryside Access Improvement Plan](#)

[Countryside Access Policy, Protocol and Operational Management Guide](#)

[Public Consultations including Public Path Orders](#)

[Read more about the Countryside Code](#) - watch out for changes coming shortly!

Be adventure SMART [Read how to be more prepared before heading out onto the path](#)

[Monmouthshire PROW Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[Visit Monmouthshire](#) details the walks, rides and events that are available, along with accommodation and other attractions.

To report a problem, use our interactive working map link above. Alternatively, you can email countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk or write to

Countryside Access, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall. The Rhaydr, Usk
NP161GA

Urgent issues such as a broken bridge can be reported on 01633 644850.