

MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
23 July 2024
OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. GRANTS

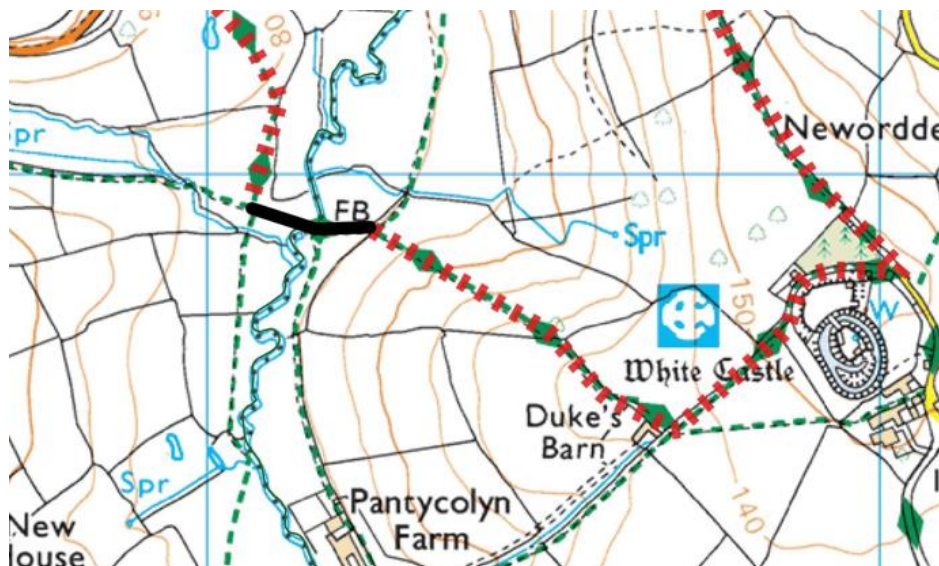
- 1.1 Rogiet Country Park – A £10,000 GWR Customer & Community Improvement grant** has just been awarded. This funding is to enhance the visitor experience, respond to community need, encourage greater use and exploration of the park and surrounding landscape including by rail users. The project will involve
- New direction and welcome signage including links to Wales Coast Path and the National cycle network.
 - New orientation and information signage at entrance of Rogiet CP.
 - Soundscape recording to be delivered with other site information via Bloomberg Connects app
- 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. The funding for 2024/25 is £80,775. The grant is reduced by 50% should an authority not have a Rights of way Improvement Plan in place or a Local Access Forum.
- 1.3** In the first two years of funding the grant supported improvements to the access at Black Rock Picnic Site, it also assisted with the purchase of a boardwalk for Castle Meadows. The principal project for all three years has been a Community Links Project. This provides materials for local volunteer groups to improve public rights of way and green spaces, particularly signage/clearance and promoting access opportunities. This has been very successful and so a Service Level Agreement with the Ramblers was enacted last year to help expand to areas which there were no volunteer groups. Monmouth, Usk and Magor and Undy were chosen, but other community groups can benefit from training events this year. A series of “Find the Wild”, “Find the Science” and “Find the Maintenance” events are planned throughout the coming year. This project and the Community Links project will be reported in much more detail to the LAF and others at the end of the grant in spring 2025. Note the Ramblers element of the project is called Paths to Communities.
- 1.4** Two videos showing accessibility of the sites have been created with the Access Improvement Grant funding and have been promoted.

Black Rock - <https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/things-to-do/black-rock-picnic-site-p1504301>

Rogiet - <https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/things-to-do/rogiet-countryside-park-p1505661>

Welsh Government representatives came to look at the projects completed and underway last month. Various volunteers from Park Run (Rogiet CP), Magor and Undy, Chepstow Walkers are Welcome and Grosmont came along and not only undertook practical work but were able to speak to the officers about the benefits of the projects. Thank you to all involved.

- 1.5 **Offa's Dyke** –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 removal enabled examination and reports on what consents and design would be required to replace the bridge safely. A competitive grant from Natural Resources Wales has enabled the banks and works required to be assessed by an engineer. A further grant was awarded this year of £60,000. The bridge has now been purchased and tenders are being let for the bank improvement work (removal and replacement of gabion baskets) and the installation of the new bridge this year.

2. CURRENT ISSUES

- 2.1 **Erosion Issues** - There have been two significant erosion issues on the prow network recently.
- 2.2 The path from Black Rock Picnic site to the beach has undercut and has been closed. The public are advised to follow the Wales Coast Path signage. Soft temporary engineering solutions are being considered but a significant project is required here to protect this area in the immediate future, perhaps also looking to reinstate and prevent further loss of the salt marsh.



2005



2010



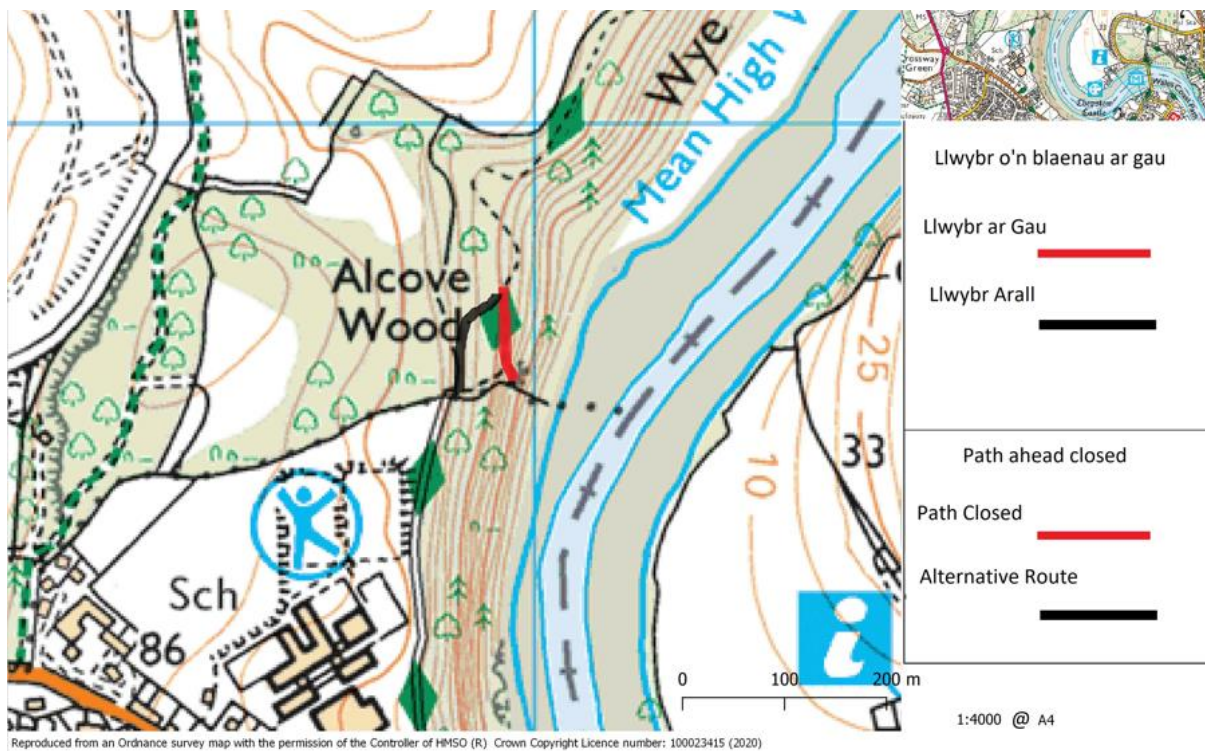
2017

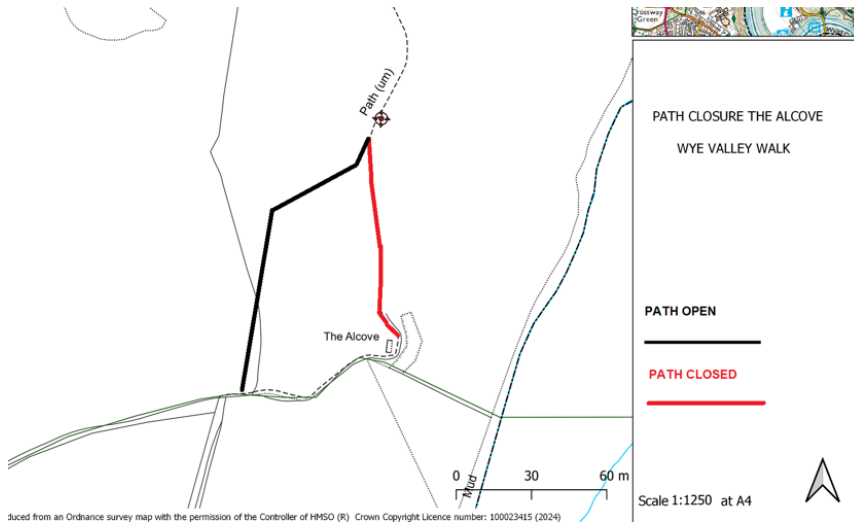


current google



2.3 On 8 July a permissive path, part of the Wye Valley Walk in Piercefield had a landslip. A diversion has been signed.





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