

**What grants have Welsh Government provided since January 2020, that could include the improvement of equestrian access in Wales.**

- **Access improvement Grant**  
Provides capital funding via formula to all Local and National Park Authorities that have public rights of way responsibilities. The grant aims to improve access to the countryside, green space and open access land. All access authorities submit a workplan outlining projects to be carried out under the Grant for review and approval by Welsh Government that should be based on their Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). Welsh Government does not carry out a competitive assessment of the individual projects outlined in the workplans, but does verify they meet the eligibility criteria for funding.
- **Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) Grant**  
Provides revenue and capital funding to develop, regenerate and broaden access to sustainable green infrastructure, or improve the quality of the urban and rural built environment. This is a competitive grant process assessed via application.
- **Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places - Landscapes Grant**  
Capital fund for improving access to the countryside and supporting more sustainable and resilient landscapes and communities. This grant is available for Designated Landscapes bodies (3 National Park Authorities and 5 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales) to apply. Each Designated Landscape submits a workplan outlining projects to be carried out under the Grant for review and approval by Welsh Government that should be based on their Management Plan and other key strategic documents. Welsh Government does not carry out a competitive assessment of the individual projects outlined in the workplans, but does verify they meet the eligibility criteria for funding through a peer-review panel comprising members of Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, National Association of AONBs, and Tirweddau Cymru/Landscapes Wales.
- **Active Travel Grant**  
Guidance states 'Equestrianism is overwhelmingly for leisure purposes rather than as a mode of transport as it rarely displaces a car journey. Forms of equestrian travel (horse riding, carriage driving, pony and trap etc.) are not considered forms of active travel. However, in delivering the provisions of the Act, local authorities should be aware that equestrians are vulnerable road users and should not restrict equestrian access to routes that they currently enjoy. Bridleways can be used by equestrians, walkers and cyclists and so may form part of an active travel route. Enhancements to bridleways should not impede equestrian use or require them to use a less safe route instead. In some cases, it may be more appropriate for all users if separate provision is made for walkers, cyclists and equestrian users. Where active travel routes are planned on an alignment for which there is also high demand from horse riders, the feasibility of accommodating them should also be assessed'.

Therefore, it is possible that some active travel schemes improve equestrian access, but we do not capture separately that information.

### What successful grant projects have included opportunities for equestrian access in Wales since January 2020

Grant	Amount/Recipient	Project
Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places – Landscapes Grant	£16,500 provided to Snowdonia National Park Authority in 2021-22	Feasibility study to look into the establishment of a safe accessible route linking the SNPA Dôl Idris car park at the foothills to Cader Idris to the PRoW Bridleway 31 Llanfihangel y Pennant, which climbs up Bwlch Llyn Bach towards the top of the Tal y Llyn Pass.
Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) Grant	£1,043,807 provided to project 82407 – Green Trails	The project aims to pilot delivery of a coherent network of green corridors within the South Wales Central region for the purposes of improving bridleway access and habitat connectivity. The project also explores financial and practical measures to secure the long-term sustainability of that network. The proposed project activities follow production of a Green Trails Network Plan funded under a previous round of ENRAW.

### Access improvement Grant

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested would require a thorough investigation of 72 project plans, 72 project reports and extraction of details referring to bridleways/equestrian access (24 project plans and 24 project reports 2020/21, 24 project plans and 24 project reports 2021/22, 24 project plans and 24 project reports 2022/23) Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested for this specific grant.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain e.g., a particular local authority. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.