

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

Please use a new sheet for each project / location.

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Project title:	Location:
Rivers Wye and Usk information enhancement. Locations at canoe access and egress points to each river	River Wye, between Rhayader and Hay on Wye; River Usk – Sennybridge to Crickhowell

Description of works completed:
There are two parts to this project, being: 1) <u>Production of information materials to support a Concordat Management arrangement for canoe launching at Upper Glas-y-Bont common, Glasbury:</u> This element is linked to the outcomes of a Habitat Regulations Assessment which is being carried out and funded by the Council. The South Wales Outdoor Activity Group has started the process of exploring the content of the information materials, on the basis of the content of the Code of Conduct that was in place previously and the two advice letters that have been issued by Natural Resources Wales around the environmental mitigation that will need to be implemented. Since December 2022, the Habitat Regulations Assessment and discussions with stakeholders has progressed. However, as significant new information has come to light through the assessment process that will affect the content of the Concordat, the remainder of the work will need to take place in 2023-24. 2) <u>Upgrade and replace existing signage at other access and egress points on the Rivers Wye and Usk:</u> This piece of work is not progressing at the current time so it is proposed to defer the work to year 3.

Spend breakdown:
Spend at the December 2022 claim: £562.50 Spend included in March 2023 claim: £576.90 Total spend to date: £1139.40 These costs were to cover South Wales Outdoor Activity Group staff time costs in initial review and exploration of the content of information materials to support a Concordat management arrangement.

Outputs: (i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)
The outputs will be: • 1 information sign installed at Upper Glas-y-Bont common to reflect sustainable canoe launch management arrangements • Web based materials available for paddlesport operators, guides and group leaders with information around the access arrangements between Glasbury and Hay

- Web based materials available for hire clients, group members, independent paddlers, etc. with information around sustainable paddling between Glasbury and Hay
- 1 online training course developed for delivery to canoe operators using Glasbury to Hay section of the River Wye

Work is under way to develop the content of these materials based on the content of the draft Habitat Regulations Assessment and stakeholder discussions.

Upgraded signage installed at 8 launch points on rivers Wye and Usk – as noted above, this element is not progressing at the current time.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

None – Information materials under production.

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

N/A

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Project title:	Location:
Builth Wells Circular Trail	Builth Wells, Powys.

Description of works completed:

The project was to create a 2.5 km countryside, improved access, circular walk on the outskirts of Builth Wells.

The project has been completed. The new circular walk starts at Builth Wells golf club and connects with the Wye Valley Walk. Access improvements consisted of 850m of path clearance through heavy scrub, the removal of 5 stiles so as to leave gaps, and the replacement of a further 2 stiles with easy opening gates.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: £5885.52

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £625 materials and labour; £995.01 project management time (total £1620.01)

Total spend to date: £7505.53

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The project has been completed. The outputs were achieved as follows:

- 2.2 km of footpaths improved so as to create a safe and convenient countryside circular walk - Access improvements consisted of 850m of path clearance through heavy scrub, the removal of 5 stiles so as to leave gaps, and the replacement of a further 2 stiles with easy opening gates.
- Local promotion of the countryside - New fingerposts have been installed and the route waymarked. There will also be Social Media promotion.

Photographic evidence – before / during:



Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):



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Project title:	Location:
Cwm Biga Footbridge	Cwm Biga, Staylittie, Powys

Description of works completed:

Installing a new footbridge in the area of Cwm Biga. The authority recently reopened a blocked footpath, and the route has become popular amongst locals. Concerns have been raised about a stream crossing that is difficult and dangerous.

All of the surveying has been completed and routes identified for improvement. Only two landowner consents are now outstanding. The Cwm Biga footbridge has been installed. Materials have been purchased and a contractor has been appointed to carry out the remaining improvement work, to install accessible path furniture. Work will be carried out in 2023-24. The remaining £2000 of spend will be incurred in 2023-24, improving the drainage and surface of a byway.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £26,632.55 materials and labour; £3341.28 project management time

Total spend to date: £29,973.83

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The project outputs will be:

- A new bridge at Cwm Biga and a further bridge downstream, where none have been in place before and which would facilitate access to the NRW forestry;
- Access improvements to the wider network of paths radiating out from Staylittie and connecting with Dylife and the Glyndwr's Way National Trail
- New signage.

This work is on track for completion by the end of March 2024.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.

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Project title:	Location:
Cilcenni Improvements	Cilcenni, Powys

Description of works completed:

The aim of the project during 2022-23 is to replace the bridge over stream (using recycled and long-life materials which are anti-slip) and improve surface near bridge and remove steps replacing with slope.

NRW SSSI consent and landowner consent have been obtained. The materials have been ordered and a contractor appointed; however, due to wet ground conditions, it has been agreed that the work will be carried out in early 2023-24.

Spend breakdown:

No current spend (materials not yet provided.) A contractor has been appointed and a purchase order raised for labour and the cost of the bridge materials.

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The outputs have not yet been achieved as the practical work to install the bridge has been delayed; there has been slippage with this project, but it is on track to be achieved by the end of March 2024. The outputs will be:

- Installation of a new bridge.
- Improvements to 130 metres of path surface, by resurfacing a section and removing steps where possible.
- Improved public access through replacing 5 stiles with gates.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow once project complete

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow once project complete

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

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Project title:	Location:
Wye Valley Walk Improvements	Mid & South Powys

Description of works completed:

The aims for the project during 2022-22 are to survey the entire section of WVW in Powys (62km), in order to build action plan for targeted improvements to meet Wye Valley AONB plan of relaunching WVW for 50th anniversary in 2023, will feed into new WVW guide and website.

Phase 1 is the survey element. The CAMS web system is now operational and mobile devices are being purchased using separate funding that can also be used for survey work. Training is being undertaken in the next 6 weeks with the volunteers on surveying and CAMS Web; once that is complete, they will be able to carry out surveys. In the meantime, officers have carried out some survey work themselves and purchased gates and posts ready for installation in 2023-24.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim:

- £1074.19 project management time
- £3729.24 for purchase of 12 pedestrian gates and posts, for installation in 2023-24.

Total spend to date: £4803.43

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The project not yet complete, although progress has been made against the full survey of the Wye Valley Walk within Powys. There has been some slippage on the survey element due to technical issues with the CAMS Web application to support volunteer survey, which have now been resolved. Further surveys will be carried out by volunteers and staff in the coming months. This will identify structures for improvement, subject to landowner consent.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project

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Project title:	Location:
Volunteer Handbook for Publishing On Internet	Powys

Description of works completed:

The aim of the project is to produce a handbook to facilitate and support community-based volunteer groups to manage their PROW and Greenspaces more effectively, to include; MoA, Guidance on Legislation, Standard Letters, Info on procedure, Furniture installation info. The handbook will be produced by an external consultant and managed by PCC staff.

A contractor has been appointed to prepare drawings to show the installation standard for different pieces of path furniture e.g. pedestrian gate. The first set of designs is complete. Further drawings are being prepared.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £1200 contractor costs; £760.95 project management time

Total spend to date: £1960.95

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

Outputs are being achieved in that drawings are being prepared of furniture installation as an easy to use reference document to include in the handbook. An example is below, with some further work needed.

Training in survey will have started for volunteer groups by the end of March 2023. The countryside stakeholder working group is meeting regularly and has been shown the first draft designs. Their input will be sought in 2023-24 around the content of the handbook.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

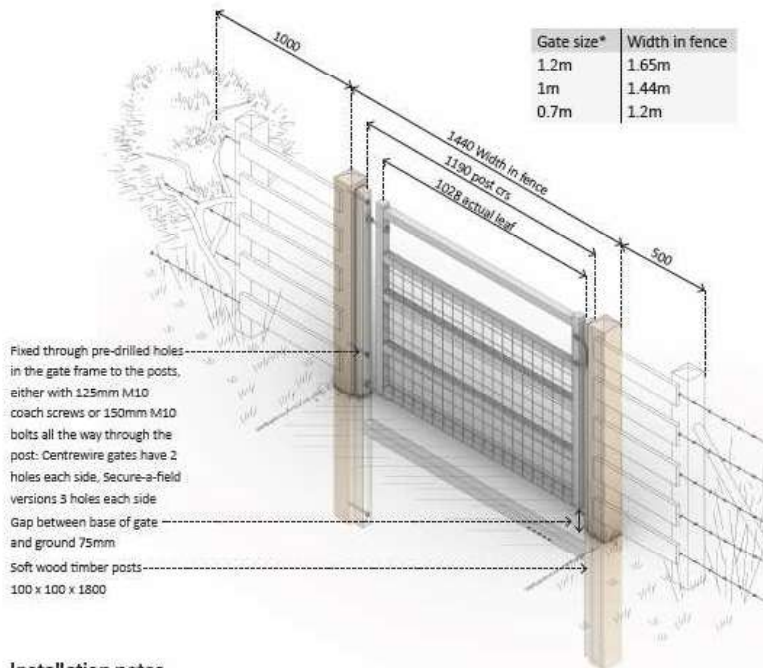
The PDF shows the first draft of the proposed design guide element of the volunteer handbook. Please note this is only a draft. The design shows the installation of a pedestrian gate.

PEDESTRIAN GATE



Gate kit & material list

- 1 x metal gate on H-frame
- 2 x softwood timber posts (100mm x 100mm x 1800mm)
- Fixings for timber posts to gate frame
- 1 x D-rail (100mm x 38mm x 3600mm) for railing to existing fence



Installation notes

- Remove the metal gate from the frame for ease of installation
- Fix the timber posts flush with the face of the metal posts, or the latch will foul the timber post
- Ensure that the hanging post is vertical, as this affects the ability of the gate to self close
- Ensure that the cross brace is completely buried, ideal gap between the ground and bottom of the gate is 75mm
- **No barbed wire** within 500mm of the gate
- **No electric fencing** within 500mm of the gate
- **No scratching vegetation** within 1000mm of the gate
- Ensure there is adequate manoeuvring space for path users to easily move around the gate
- Adjust the gate so that it self closes at an appropriate speed to not be a hazard to path users

*Illustration shows a typical 1m pedestrian gate

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow on completion

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Project title:	Location:
Llechfaen Path Improvements	Llechfaen, Powys

Description of works completed:

The aim of the project is the improvement of the public path network radiating from Llechfaen Village.

The project was intended to improve 6 local footpaths all radiating from the centre of the village to create individual circular walks and a pedestrian access to Groesfordd, where there is a local bus connection and a pub/restaurant.

Later negotiations with some landowners encountered resistance in relation to some paths, in particular improving paths with gates or kissing gates as opposed to stiles. The project therefore had to be split into separate phases. Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 is intended to begin in mid-April.

Phase 1

Footpath 3: 250m of sunken lane has been cleared, drained and gated to prevent recurring damage by livestock. 3 dilapidated stiles have been replaced with self-closing easy open gates and a Kissing gate installed at roadside. New fingerposts have been installed and the route waymarked.

Footpath 5: 3 field gates have been replaced with high reach latch opening gates and 1 dilapidated stile has been replaced with self-closing pedestrian gate. Work on the remainder of the path and any connecting paths will fall under phase 2.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £10,763.08 materials and labour; £1532.31 project management time

Total spend to date: £12,295.39

As detailed above, the project has been delayed and its now proposed that we defer £2883.85 of the budget into 2023-2024 when the project will be complete. The total spend has been increased to make use of underspend from the Llangattock greenspace project.

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

On completion, the output will be improvements to appx 3km of PROW. Improved access for users with reduced mobility. Progress is being made towards this with work having been carried out on two paths and negotiation under way to complete work in 2023-24 on the remaining 6 paths.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Some photos before and during phase 1 works are below. Further photographic evidence will follow on completion of phase 2.



Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Pictures from phase 1 works are below; further photographic evidence will follow on completion of phase 2.



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Project title:	Location:
Llanbrynmair Community Project	Pennant, Llanbrynmair, Powys

Description of works completed:

This project aims to enhance the connectivity of public rights of way in Llanbrynmair community, with installation of a new footbridge at Pennant and public path Order and new infrastructure to improve connectivity of network around Llan and Llanbrynmair.

The new bridge at Pennant has now been installed and the path is back open for use by the public. Negotiation is under way for the next phase of path improvements and the spend for phase 2 has been moved forward into 2023-24.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £26,800 materials and labour; £330.93 project management time

Total spend to date: £27,130.93

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The key outputs will be:

- Improved access opportunities within the community and beyond transport to 15km of improved access routes as well as links to other multi user routes.

Progress has been made towards this in that the Pennant footbridge has been replaced; this footpath is a well-used and important link for residents, as it avoids use of the county roads to cross the valley, where there is no pavement. This has received positive feedback from residents already.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photos before and during phase 1 work to install the Pennant footbridge are below. Further photographic evidence will follow on completion of phase 2.



Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Some photos after phase 1 work to install the Pennant footbridge are below. Further photographic evidence will follow on completion of phase 2.



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Project title:	Location:
Dolfor Lock Bridge	Dolfor Lock Bridge, Montgomeryshire Canal, Newtown, Powys.

Description of works completed:
The aim of the project is the renovation of a Montgomery Canal Bridge, Dolfor Lock. Phase 1, 2022-23, of the project has involved engineering design investigations prior to preparing a full report and costings for the bridge renovation. Further engineering design and ecological survey work will take place in 2023-24.

Spend breakdown:
Spend at the December 2022 claim: None Spend included in March 2023 claim: £399.69 engineering design time Total spend to date: £399.69

Outputs: (i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)
The project is at the stage of engineering investigation so outputs have not yet been achieved. These will be: • Bridge renovated and improved. • Legal diversion of footpaths brought into effect, with a new footpath being created over the bridge.

Photographic evidence – before / during:
Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.
Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):
Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

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Project title:	Location:
Offa's Dyke Park improvements	Knighton

Description of works completed:

This is project that was originally planned for year 3 of the programme, but which has been brought forward to year 1 and 2 due to delays to other year 1 projects.

The work involves path improvements in the park, with gabions and path surface improvements. This is a very popular park close to the town centre and linking to the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail; a set of steps linking with the Trail will be improved. The aim is to increase the accessibility of the greenspace for residents and visitors.

Spend breakdown:

Materials have been purchased; the contractor has been appointed and will implement the work in summer 2023. The project budget has been increased using underspend from the access to water project.

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £18,000 materials; £21,180 contractor costs.

Total £39,180

Total spend to date: £39,180

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The project is on track for completion by the end of March 2024, which is earlier than anticipated as this was scheduled to be a year 3 project. Installation has not started yet; the outputs will be:

- Improvements to handrails and footpath edgings.
- Improvements to 800 metres of path surface.
- Install 34 metres of gabion baskets.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of works.

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

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Project title:	Location:
Disabled access ramp, recreation ground	Llangattock

Description of works completed:

This is project that was originally planned for year 3 of the programme, but which has been brought forward to year 1 and 2 due to delays to other year 1 projects.

The project is complete; a new ramp has been constructed to allow for those with disabilities to be able to access the community run recreation ground and greenspace at Llangattock.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None

Spend included in March 2023 claim: £22,464 materials and labour

Total spend to date: £22,464

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The final outputs of the project have been achieved as planned, being:

- Improved Access for all, including Disabled & Pushchair Access. The surface of the path is even and the gradient is suited to people of all abilities.
- Improved access / egress points to open access land and green space. Residents of all abilities and ages can now use this access to the Recreation Ground.
- Increasing under-represented groups' access to the outdoors. Those with mobility and sensory loss can conveniently use this access to the Recreation Ground for outdoor recreation as the surface is even and at a gentle gradient.

The project work has only been completed in recent weeks so the evaluation of outputs has not yet taken place. Feedback will be sought from the local community via Social Media posts and a survey.

Photographic evidence – before / during:



Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):



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Project title:	Location:
Aberllefenni bridge – upgrade from footbridge to bridle bridge	Aberllefenni

Description of works completed:

The project involves upgrading the current footbridge to a bridleway bridge. The river is the county boundary between Powys and Gwynedd; the public right of way leading to the bridge on the Powys side is a bridleway. The bridge is Powys County Council's responsibility.

To date, a bridge specification has been drawn up, quotes received and the contractor selected. Negotiations with the landowner for access across their land to upgrade the bridge are drawing to a conclusion. An ecological survey and report are being prepared due to the proximity to an SSSI and ordinary watercourse consent is being sought for the removal of the existing footbridge. The spend in 2023-24 was less than expected as the abutments to the bridge did not require work.

Spend breakdown:

Spend at the December 2022 claim: None
Spend included in March 2023 claim: £256.20 project management time
Total spend to date: £256.20

Outputs:

(i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)

The outputs will be:

- Bridge installed, with upgraded access to include cyclists and horse riders
- Signage enhanced

The project is on track for completion by the end of March 2024.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project

Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

Please use a new sheet for each project / location.

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Project title:	Location:
Trewern community access improvements	Trewern

Description of works completed:
This project is due to take place in 2023-24. It will involve making general improvements to the footpath network around Middletown, Moel Y Garth and Criggion Hills. The aim is to negotiate improvements to the car parks at the Moel y Golfa Site and at Middletown Hill. It is also intended that a footpath creation be negotiated between the Middletown and Meol y Golfa Hills. This project work and ongoing maintenance of the improved paths will be supported by a community volunteer team. There has been discussion with the community around its aspirations; formal landowner negotiations will commence in early 2023-24. Pedestrian gates have been purchased in readiness, as part of a larger order for the Access Improvement Grant project; a bulk order allows for a reduction in delivery costs incurred.

Spend breakdown:
Spend at the December 2022 None Spend included in March 2023 claim: £7458.48 materials for installation in 2023-24 Total spend to date: £7458.48

Outputs: (i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)
As noted above, practical work has not yet commenced; the outputs will be: • General improvement of public rights of way network including stiles for gates/kissing gates and signage. • Improved car park facilities. • Creation of new footpath directly linking two 'honey pot' destinations. • Creation of volunteer team to look after local public rights of way network. Discussions are under way with the local community around the volunteering aspect.

Photographic evidence – before / during:
Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project
Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):
Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project