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Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

Please use a new sheet for each project / location.

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

Description of works completed:

- Survey entire section of WVV in Powys (62km), in order to build action plan for targeted improvements to meet Wye Valley AONB plan of relaunching WVV for 50th anniversary in 2023, will feed into new WVV guide and website.
- Targeted improvements to WVV based on survey, to include;
 - Replacing stiles with gates, subject to landholder agreement
 - Replacing signage, surface improvements
 - Restoration Of Washed Out 590m Section of Wye Valley Walk

Activity to date:

- The CAMS web system is now operational and mobile devices have been purchased (using separate funding)
- Surveying and CAMS Web training of volunteers has begun and will continue in a rolling programme.
- Surveys underway by the trained volunteers – to identify structures for improvement, subject to landowner consent.
- Officers have also carried out some survey work, having previously purchased gates and posts ready for installation (2023/24)
- Significant byway surface works completed early summer '23

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£75,946.57	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£50,051.17	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£50,051.17	

Outputs:

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

- Full survey of the entire WVV within Powys
- Improvements to signage along the entire route (62km), including refreshing all waymarking

- Improvements to path surface – 590 metres.
- 590m of Restricted byway will be restored to an access for all condition. Previous improvement works have, given the topography and hydrology at this site, not been durable. The works in this project are intended to be sufficiently robust and long lasting and allow for all lawful user over the Restricted Byway.
- Improvements to 10 access structures to make the route more accessible to all, subject to landowner agreement

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:
Presteigne Phase 2	Presteigne SO 3147 6401 & SO 3077 6337

Description of works completed:

- Significant improvements have previously been made to the replacing and upgrading the riverside path in Presteigne; further additional works are needed to address the river crossings along this route, which are not possible in winter flows.
- Works to investigate and implement physical improvements in a dynamic river channel, forming river crossings along the route. Works will require Land Drainage Consent and a robust design as the river channel is very reactive and can frequently be fully submerged.

Activity to date:

- Bridge and materials purchased October 2023
- Contractor engaged for bridge installation and removal of steps, create bank and slope – physical works to take place when weather permits (the area suffers from flooding)
- Additional materials for site work earmarked.

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£16,500	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	nil	All works costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

Outputs:

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

- Improvements to river crossings
- Improvements to 270 metres of path surface

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:
Offa's Dyke Park improvements	Knighton

Description of works completed:

- 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. (Moved from year 3 to year 1)

Activity to date:

- Materials purchased in year 1 (22/23)
- Contractor implemented work in early summer 2023.
- Project completed May 2023

Spend breakdown:

The Year 1 project budget had been increased using underspend from the access to water project.

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	nil	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	nil	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff	nil	
Total spend @ 30/09/23	nil	

Outputs:

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

The project is completed earlier than anticipated, as this was scheduled to be a year 3 project.

- 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 with March 2024 claim.

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

Photographic evidence will follow with March 2024 claim.

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

Please use a new sheet for each project / location.

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

Description of works completed:

- 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.

Activity to date:

- Structural drawings (installation standard for different pieces of path furniture e.g. pedestrian gate) prepared in year 1 are being translated and Welsh versions created.
- Stakeholder engagement around requirements/content are being planned - countryside volunteer working group, Local Access Forum and others.

Spend breakdown:		
Staff time is being utilised in year 2 to prepare requirements /content for the handbook and engage with stakeholders.		
Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£0.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	nil	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

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.
The countryside stakeholder working group (now renamed the countryside volunteer working group) is meeting regularly and has been shown the first draft designs. Their input will be sought in spring 2024 around the content of the handbook.

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

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

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Project title:	Location:
Cilcenni Improvements	Cilcenni, Powys

Description of works completed:
- 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. Activity to date: - 12m bridge purchased - Additional materials purchased

- Bridge installation and associated path construction completed early summer '23
- Creation of Cilcenni dingle steps completed
- 4 metal gates to be installed on Woodland Trust land by WT volunteers.

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£44,387.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£41,278.36	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff spend to follow in March claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£41,278.36	

Outputs:

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

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:
Trewern community access improvements	Trewern

Description of works completed:

- Making 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 Golf Site and at Middletown Hill.
- It is also intended that a footpath creation be negotiated between the Middletown and Meol y Golf Hills. This project work and ongoing maintenance of the improved paths will be supported by a community volunteer team.

Activity to date:

- There has been discussion with the community around its aspirations
- Discussions are under way with the local community around the volunteering aspect.
- Early formal landowner negotiations are underway

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£22,541.52	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£0.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff	£0.00	All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

Outputs:

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

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.

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

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

Description of works completed:

- To renovate a Montgomery Canal Bridge, Dolfor Lock.
- Phase 1 – to involve engineering design investigations prior to preparing a full report and costings for the bridge renovation.

Activity to date:

- Engineering design report is being compiled ahead of 31 Dec 2023
- Ecological survey requirements being investigated in line with the above.

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Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£8,401.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£0.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff	£0.00	All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

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 (in Year 3):

- 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

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 Glasbury and Hay on Wye

Description of works completed:

There are two parts to this project, being:

1) Production of information materials to support a Concordat Management arrangement for canoe launching at Upper Glas-y-Bont common, Glasbury:

- This element is linked to the outcomes of a Habitat Regulations Assessment which is being carried out and funded by the Council.

- A draft report to inform the Habitat Regulations Assessment has been prepared and sent out for consultation to stakeholders. The responses are being reviewed and discussions are under way around a Concordat management framework.
- The South Wales Outdoor Activity Group is preparing the content of the information materials, on the basis of the content of the Code of Conduct that was in place previously and the draft report to inform the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Initial drafts of information have been prepared for discussion with other stakeholders.

2) Upgrade and replace existing signage at other access and egress points on the Rivers Wye and Usk:

- This piece of work is not progressing at the current time.

Spend breakdown:

Costs to cover South Wales Outdoor Activity Group staff time in initial review and exploration of the content of information materials to support a Concordat management arrangement (initially year 1)

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£8,860.60	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£0.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff	£0.00	All staff costs to follow in march claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

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:
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. Activity to date: <u>Phase 1</u> - Footpath 3 – completed 22/23 <u>Phase 2</u> - Completed early summer '23 <u>Phase 3</u> - Completed early summer '23

Spend breakdown:

The total spend has been increased. In 2022-23, this made use of underspend from the Llangattock greenspace project. It is proposed that in 2023-24, increased budget costs will be met through an expected underspend in overall staff allocation cost.

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£2683.85	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£6590.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in march claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£6,590.00	

Outputs: (i.e. section 7 of the workplan.)
- Improvements to appx 3km of PROW. Improved access for users with reduced mobility.
Photographic evidence – before / during:
Photographs before work was completed were provided with the March 2023 claim.
Photographic evidence – after (not needed if an uncompleted multiyear project):
Photographs of work completed in 2022-23 were provided with the March 2023 claim. Photographic evidence of further work will follow in March 2024.

Access Improvement Grant – Reporting template

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

Description of works completed:
- 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. Activity 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 being finalised. - 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.

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£35,163.80	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£0.0	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

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

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

Description of works completed:

- 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.

Activity to date:

- The new bridge at Pennant has now been installed and the well-used path is open for use by the public (22/23), with positive resident feedback (particularly from a safety perspective, as it avoids use of the county roads to cross the valley, where there is no pavement)
- Negotiation is under way for the phase 2 work of path improvements.

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£13,000	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£0.00	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£0.00	

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.

Photographic evidence – before / during:

Photographic evidence will follow on completion of the project

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

Photographs of the completed footbridge were provide with the March 2023 claim.
Photographic evidence of further work 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:
Cwm Biga Footbridge	Cwm Biga, Staylittle, 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.

Activity to date:

- All of the surveying has been completed and routes identified for improvement.
- The Cwm Biga footbridge has been installed.
- Materials purchased and a contractor appointed to carry out the remaining improvement work, to install accessible path furniture. Completed.
- Improvements to drainage and surface of a byway – completed
- Activity completed early summer '23

Spend breakdown:

Total	Year 2	Notes
Budget	£2,000	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - activity	£1,354	
Spend @ 30/09/23 - staff		All staff costs to follow in March 2024 claim
Total spend @ 30/09/23	£1,354	

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 with the March 2024 claim.

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

Photographic evidence will follow with the March 2024 claim.