



Rights of Way Improvement Plan Questionnaire 2016 - Landowners

Countryside Services staff are working to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Powys which has been in existence now for over 10 years. We would like your help to do so.

The purpose of this survey is to find out your views as landowners.

County Councillor John T Powell, Cabinet member for Countryside Services said:

"The public rights of way and open access land are a key asset to the Powys economy in terms of attracting tourists and spend in our county. They provide our residents and tourists alike with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful countryside and boost their health and mental well-being whilst doing so. We'd really like to continue to enhance the network but with reducing resources we would value your views on what you feel our priorities should be."

The closing date for comments is 31 January 2017.

Privacy Statement

Before we take you to the survey, please read the Privacy Statement below. By completing this survey you state that you have read and accept it.

Powys County Council accepts the following responsibilities for personal information recorded through this survey:-

1. The information will only be used for the agreed reason and will be looked after securely
2. The information will only be kept for as long as needed or to comply with statutory requirements and will then be securely destroyed
3. If the information has to be shared with other agencies initial consent will be gathered at this point and explicit (signed) consent will be obtained by the service / department concerned as soon as possible. Unless we are obliged by law to disclose the information.

Detailed guidance can be found on our Freedom of Information Web pages or from the Information Management Team Tel 01597 827512

A note on privacy

This survey is anonymous.

The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed this survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

The current use of the rights of way network

The public rights of way network consists of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways that are open to all traffic.

There are a number of terms and definitions which can be confusing for users.

The following aims to help you understand these before you complete the survey.

- **Public rights of way** - these are highways that are made available for the public to use e.g. footpaths, bridlepaths and byways open to all traffic.
- **Footpath** - for use on foot only, may be accompanied by a dog or pushchair
- **Bridleway** - this is the same as a footpath but with additional rights to ride or lead a horse or ride or push a pedal cycle
- **Restricted by-way** - as above but with the addition of rights to drive a horse drawn carriage.
- **Byway** - this is the same as above but with additional rights to drive a motorised vehicle
- **Open access** - this allow the public right of access to registered common land and 'open land' and NRW Forestry land as shown on the OS map in yellow
- **Definitive map** - this is the legal record of the public rights of way showing their alignment and status. The definitive statement may record further details for each public right of way.
- **Promoted or recreational trails of regional or national status** e.g. Glyndwr's Way, Offa's Dyke Path, Severn Way, Wye Valley Walk and also local and circular routes
- **Waymarking** - Signs posted at either end and along public rights of way
- **Furniture** - Stiles and gates along public rights of way

Q1: Do you have public rights of way crossing your land? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No (please go to Q5)
- I'm not sure/dont' know

Q1a: What positive contributions do the public rights of way on your land make? Please choose any that apply.

- Benefits tourism e.g. campsite, farm shop, B&B
- Education – improve awareness and knowledge of countryside
- People report problems they might see with regard to your animals
- Social interaction – people using the network chat to you
- Other

Q1b: Looking at the following list, please tick any where you have had a problem in the last two years. Please choose any that apply.

- People getting lost

- Dogs being off the lead and bothering your stock
- People not closing gates behind them
- Crime and security issues
- Trespassing
- Littering
- Damage to path surfaces from overuse/misuse
- Illegal use – eg footpath used by motorbikes
- Other

Q2: Do you have any of the following promoted routes crossing your land?

	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Answer
Long circular route	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Long distance route	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3: Are you aware of the legal duties regarding the public rights of way? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / don't know

Q4: Do you know about the service that Powys County Council can provide to assist you with your legal obligations? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / don't know

Q5: Have you received a copy of the Powys Landholder Guide to public rights of way? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes (Please go to Q6)
- No

Q5a: If you would like a copy please provide your details below so we can send one out to you?

Q6: Have you had any dealings with Countryside Services regarding rights of way in the past two years? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Can't remember

Q7: Looking at the following list, please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the level of service provided by the service. Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Provision of furniture e.g. stiles, gates, signposts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of furniture e.g. stiles, gates, signposts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waymarking - provision of signs and waymarkers along the route/s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work on surfaces - clearance of vegetation along paths or work to surface	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Definitive Map - maintaining the map, doing diversions or modification orders and providing information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enforcement - taking appropriate steps to remove obstructions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements - carrying out practical improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
to make paths more accessible				
Promotion - providing information about the path network and what we do to look after it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff - helpfulness and professionalism of rights of way staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open access - advice and assistance available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall satisfaction with the Rights of Way service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The network in the future

Q8: With limited resources in the Countryside Services budget, prioritisation is an important factor. If the choice has to be made between the following areas of work, what would you consider to be of more importance or benefit. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Create new long distance promoted routes
- Create new local circular routes

Q9: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Keep the priority community approach
- Provide a priority rating for each individual public right of way

*The **current priority community** approach is developed by receiving a report that is given a rating. Each rating is added to each community area and the total rating for that community is then divided by the length of public rights of way. This gives a final priority rating and then work is undertaken in this community before moving onto the next.*

There are approximately 12,000 individual public rights of way and each one would need to be individually rated to determine its priority.

Q10: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Negotiate wherever possible to open obstructed public rights of way
- Serve formal enforcement notices and discuss works afterwards

As a landowner, you have a responsibility to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed.

The council has enforcement powers but tends to negotiate the opening up of paths as much as possible before taking enforcement action. This does however take up a lot of time and resources. By taking enforcement action first, rather than negotiating, this is likely to reduce officer time and resources but could well result in opening up less paths due to an increased number of prosecutions where there is non-compliance by a land owner.

As a land owner we'd like to know your views on what we should do.

Q11: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Recreational trails should be given priority over other rights of way as resources allow
- Equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way

Q12: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Open up routes on the definitive map, which up to the present have received no maintenance work
- Maintain routes already opened up and improve their standard

Q13: What do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 13

- Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more waymarkers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land
- Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website
- Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties
- General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including

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- installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation
- Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc.
- Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes
- Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed
- Active travel work - provide paths which link to public transport, places of work, shops and other amenities
- Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country
- Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted exercise and recreation
- School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils
- Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside
- Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails

Q14: If you had to select just three aspects of work as being the most important what would they be and why? Please write your answer here:

Q15: The County Council currently processes applications for diverting public rights of way. What type of diversions do you believe should receive the highest priority? Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 7

- Farmyard diversions
- Diversions due to new housing/road developments
- Diverting rights of way out of private gardens
- Woodland/forestry diversions
- Diverting rights of way to link with open access land
- Conservation protection



- Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs

Q16: If you have any further comments or suggestions you'd like the team to consider as part of this consultation please use this space to share them. Thank you. Please write your answer here:

Q17: If you would like a response or would like to be consulted further on the draft Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan please provide your name and preferred contact details in the space below. This can be a phone number, an email or postal address.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Please write your contact details here:

Q18: Finally, in analysing the results from this landowner survey, it would be helpful for us to be able to map out and consider the responses from landowners based on the whole county.

If you are happy to do so please provide your postcode below.

The first three or four characters is sufficient if you don't wish to give your full postcode. e.g. SY16

Please write your postcode here:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the completed application form to:-

Mark Stafford-Tolley
Countryside Access Officer
Gwalia Offices
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

or e-mail rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk