



**RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FUNDING PROGRAMME (ROWIP)
2008-2011**

**A 3 YEAR REPORT DETAILING THE OUTPUTS OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY
FUNDING PROGRAMME (RFP)**

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For more information on collaborative working and innovative/good practice, please refer to document entitled “Case Studies of Rights of Way Funding Programme 2008-11”.

1. BACKGROUND

Local highway authorities in Wales are required to produce statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. They are intended to cover a 10 year period and provide a prioritised plan for the improvement of the local rights of way network for all users – walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road users as well as people with sight and mobility problems.

The Welsh Assembly (WG) allocated £1.7 million in capital monies for the implementation of ROWIPs in 2008-2009 (Yr1), 2009-2010 (Yr2) and 2010-2011 (Yr3).

CCW has been tasked with establishing the ROWIP Funding Programme (RFP) and to administer and manage the funding to local authorities.

This paper provides the collated information from all 23 authorities on the work **delivered** in the past three years of funding. Financial and output information in Tables 1 to 8 are for all the 23 local authorities receiving funding. Where relevant, points are drawn from the Wales ROWIP Review which considered all 23 ROWIPs and analysed information and actions planned for the next 10 years.

All the data contained in this report (and the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 reports) has been submitted by the local authorities in their annual reports at the end of each funding year.

In 2010/11 an additional condition for ROWIP Funding was introduced by WG:

‘that the authorities aim each to deliver at least one network improvement that will also assist public understanding of, or conservation of, local biodiversity’.

Eligible projects include:

- Projects that provide access to or within areas of nature conservation interest such as nature reserves or other sites
- Routes that are being managed in ways that benefit nature conservation
- Provision of information/interpretation material about conservation/biodiversity and access
- Works that directly enhance access and conservation facilities

All but one authority reported that they had met this condition. However, the local authority was unable to complete the project in 2010-2011 but will do so in 2011-2012.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Key achievements of the funding for the three year period are:

1. Practical improvements on the ground:

- Improvement of access on the ground to make routes easier to use.
- Funding went to improve existing linear access. Examples of this work include improving/installing/removing path furniture – benches, bridges, stiles and gates.
- This work should help to increase the proportion of the network that is easy to use.

2. Making routes 'easy to use':

By the end of March 2011 authorities reported that together with other works and funding, the ROWIP Funding Programme had contributed to improving approximately 3,164km (around 10%) of the 33,000 km network across Wales being easy to use¹.

3. Improvements that benefit more than one group - including walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The biggest proportion (38%) of projects delivered were 'multi-benefit' actions (actions that benefit more than one group of user). Most of the multi-benefit actions benefited walkers, cyclists and horse riders. 31% of the actions had a 'general benefit to all users' – meaning that almost every type of user benefited from a particular action.

4. Improvements that both encourage and allow more people to use paths,

Information and promotion are an integral part of improving access. During 2008-11, 7% of the overall allocation has been spent on this project type, with works ranging from signage and way-marking to website improvements.

The ROWIP Review showed that a 'lack of information off site' was frequently identified as an inadequacy by local authorities in the assessment section of their ROWIPs.

5. Improvements specifically to make outdoor access easier for people who find it difficult, such as people with disabilities:

Each of the 23 authorities has carried out at least one project aimed at better meeting the needs of the people with disabilities, Communities First², ethnic minorities or other groups who make a disproportionately low use of the countryside, as required under the Welsh Assembly conditions of funding. In total 113 actions specifically for these 'low use' groups were carried out, with a value of £942,469.

6. Collaborative working

There have been many examples of collaborative working between authorities and with various external bodies. Examples are:

- Neath Port Talbot and City and County of Swansea have both part funded a Legal Officer to deal with Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) for both authorities. This is an arrangement that has worked well over the past three years.
- Neath Port Talbot and Ramblers Cymru have successfully collaborated in producing a toolkit for the 'Communities on Foot' project.
- Conwy and Newport have worked with Branchlines (an organisation supported through Conwy's Rural Development Plan) and the Future Jobs Fund respectively.
- Local authorities working closely together with town and community councils to improve their local PROW.

7. Innovative Working/Good Practice

RDP funding has allowed authorities to develop good working practices that will benefit the authorities in the immediate sense but also the general public in the long term as they will lead to a better maintained public rights of way network. Examples of such works are:

¹ 'Easy to use' paths are ones that: are well signposted, have gates, bridges and similar path furniture in good condition; the surface is in good condition; are free from obstructions, such as overgrown vegetation. The Data Unit Wales (www.dataunitwales.gov.uk) publishes a performance indicator for Wales called 'NAW PI CMT/001: The percentage of the total length of Rights of Way which are easy to use by members of the public'. This performance indicator showed that in 2007/08 51% of rights of way in Wales met the 'easy to use' standard, 49.3% did so in 2008/09 and 54.9% of Welsh PROW were reported as 'easy to use' in 2009/10.

² The Communities First programme is a long-term strategy for improving the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales.

- Survey of whole PROW network – to improve continuation of Least Restrictive Access standards (Vale of Glamorgan).
- Biodiversity Action Plan – to be made available to IPROW and other PROW professionals (Monmouthshire).

One element of work that has increased steadily over the three years is the use of volunteers to deliver practical works on the ground. Some authorities have used volunteer time to great effect and in one instance, investment in one more vehicle to transport volunteers to multiple sites has significantly increased the volunteer output. This shows that volunteers have been invaluable in supporting the works of the authority staff and in delivering tangible results of RFP funding.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The WG funding was allocated on the basis of an agreed funding formula, which comprised a baseline amount of £25,000 for each authority with the additional funding being allocated on a formula basis. The formula was calculated on the basis of a weighting of 65% on the length of PROW within the authority, 25% on usual population and 10% on the area of open access land.

In Yr 1, in addition to the WG funding, an extra £26,559 of CCW funding was also spent by the local authorities who also invested their own funding in actions being delivered under the RFP.

Table 1: Overall Spend under ROWIP Funding Programme in 2008-11

Organisation	Funding Amount (£)
WG funding	£5,098,783
Local authority spend	£3,394,227
CCW Funding	£26,559
Other sources of funding	£1,010,393
Total RFP	£9,529,962

*NB: In addition to these main funding sources (WG and local authority spend), authorities were asked to include in their RFP Annual Reports, information about any other sources of funding which they were able to draw on. They included the Rural Development Fund, Heads of the Valley Improvement Fund, Tidy Towns, Future Jobs Fund, Valleys Regional Park and Road Safety Grant.

The ROWIP Review identified a need to use ROWIPs proactively to raise additional funding and Table 1 shows that a wide range of extra funding is being accessed by authorities and the amount is increasing year on year.

In Yr 1, reallocations of funds were carried out by -

- authorities between individual projects within their own Summary Work Plan, and by
- CCW between local authorities.

This ensured any underspend was absorbed by those Authorities that had capacity to deliver additional works. There were no reallocations in Yr 2 or Yr 3. The overall underspend for all years was £1,217.

In Yr2 and Yr3, most authorities were able to make full use of their allocation overall so we were not in a position to offer up underspend to the authorities who expressed an interest and an ability to deliver additional works. Any extra projects have been undertaken in the following year's allocation. Overall, spend largely corresponded with the amount allocated to each authority through the agreed funding formula.

Table 2 Allocation and spend of WG and CCW funding during 2008-11.

Authority	Funding Offer during 2008-11 (£)	Spend during 2008-11 (£)
Anglesey	137,010	126,758
Blaenau Gwent	120,534	120,534
<u>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority</u>	275,481	310,477
Bridgend	156,027	156,024
Caerphilly	189,864	194,864
Cardiff	176,250	176,250
Carmarthenshire	297,555	297,554
Ceredigion	282,522	272,838
Conwy	244,539	236,370
Denbighshire	208,125	207,662
Flintshire	180,945	174,916
Gwynedd	396,282	396,278
Merthyr Tydfil	100,899	100,960
Monmouthshire	216,009	211,274
Neath Port Talbot	171,891	171,890
<u>Newport</u>	134,490	149,228
Pembrokeshire County Council	136,464	136,463
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	75,765	75,717
Powys	768,888	768,884
Rhondda Cynon Taff	204,741	204,412
Swansea	175,830	179,543
<u>Torfaen</u>	130,869	136,358
Vale of Glamorgan	140,220	138,271
<i>Wrexham</i>	178,800	181,800
Total	5,100,000	5,125,325

During the three year period, some authorities expressed an interest and the ability to spend above their allocation on extra projects should any become available. Where authorities informed us in time that they would be unable to spend their full allocation, an amended offer was made and funding was reallocated to authorities with capacity to deliver additional works.

Three authorities benefited from the additional CCW funding during 2008-09, highlighted in bold and underlined in the table above. One authority in 2009-10 was able to absorb some under-spend to carry out additional works, highlighted in bold italics in the table above.

WG introduced a new condition to the funding in Yr2 (which followed into Yr 3) which was to:

‘Ensure that 40% of funding was claimed by November/December [of that financial year] (this is to assist in our budget management process and to help us ensure that all the money is utilised in year)’.

The majority of authorities were able to adhere to this new condition, and it resulted in much fewer amendments and improved management of the funding throughout the remaining programme funding period.

In Yr 3, authorities were able to spend RFP within the Coastal Zone (a 2 km strip inland from the coastline). Adjustments were made to the formula to remove the length of rights of way eligible for funding under the Wales Coastal Access Improvement Programme thereby reducing the funding allocation under ROWIP for coastal authorities.

These works included surface and drainage works, installation of path furniture and waymarking. There were 13 projects carried out within the Coastal Zone in year 3 worth £106,911.

4. FUNDING FOR GROUPS THAT MAKE DISPROPORTIONATELY LOW USE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

As part of the WG requirements throughout the funding period, it was stated that authorities would need to deliver at least one improvement aimed at better meeting the needs of the people with disabilities, Communities First areas, ethnic minorities or other groups who make a disproportionately low use of the countryside.

Table 3 below shows the total funding for groups that make disproportionately low use of the countryside.

Table 3: Type of low use group, number and the value of the actions (ordered by value)

Beneficiary	Number of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of beneficiaries
People with mobility problems	41	313,057	33%
People with disabilities	28	226,230	24%
Multi-benefit	31	319,179	34%
Communities First areas	2	25,355	3%
General benefit to all users	5	16,351	2%
People with disabilities and people with mobility problems	1	8,083	1%
Other groups that make low use of countryside	3	2,630	0%
Other	2	31,584	3%
TOTAL	113	942,469	100%

In looking at the breakdown in Table 4, the majority of works for low use groups relate to improving existing linear access. See below for information about Action Type.

Table 4: Type of work and value of work delivered for low use groups for Yr1–Yr3. (ordered by value).

Action Type	Total Value (£)
a) improve existing linear access	831,670
c) improve other access opportunities	41,135
b) create new linear access	17,950
d) improve information and promotion about linear access	3,722
f) improve records/databases for linear access management	12,898
h) other	35,094
Total	942,469

88% of the projects for low use groups were for improving existing linear access. These projects involved installing furniture such as benches along a route to enable people to sit and rest whilst on their walk. The removal of stiles and replacing them with kissing gates have also featured, ensuring that the least restrictive access option is made available. In Yr 3, there has been a wider variety of actions types aimed at low use groups indicating that practical works on the ground are being supported with projects that aim to publicise them more. This shows a thorough approach in using RFP funds as there is little point in improving access for low use groups if they are not made aware of the improvements.

5. ACTIONS DELIVERED: TYPES OF WORK CARRIED OUT

OVERVIEW

The range of work that can be undertaken in ROWIP work is broad. Authorities grouped their actions according to agreed 'Programme Action Types'. Analysis of the number and value of these different action groups provides information about the type of work authorities carried out.

Actions were grouped as follows:

- a) **Improve existing linear access:** physical improvements to routes e.g. improving the surface of paths, installing or repairing stiles, gates and other path furniture.
- b) **Create new linear access:** physical creation of new routes.
- c) **Improve other access opportunities:** for example, improvements to access to open access land/other natural green space.
- d) **Improve information and promotion about linear access:** for example signage and waymarking, on site (e.g. interpretation panels), off site (e.g. leaflets), website, events, marketing.
- e) **Improve systems/processes for linear access management:** for example systems for maintenance, enforcement, monitoring, reporting.
- f) **Improve records/databases for linear access management:** for example bringing the definitive map up to date, digitising the definitive map, or developing/improving electronic PROW management systems.
- g) **Deliver additional analysis of linear access:** for example additional survey/analysis of access provision or additional analysis of access use.
- h) **Other action type:** where none of the above action types were applicable.

Table 5 and **Chart 1** below show the breakdown of action type and value claimed for 2008-11 (including low use groups).

Programme Action Type /Year	Yr1		Yr2		Yr3	
	No of Actions	Value (£)	No of Actions	Value (£)	No of Actions	Value (£)
a) improve existing linear access	158	1,249,395.00	164	1,271,743.00	137	1,116,165.00
b) create new linear access	9	36,932.00	11	42,966.00	10	58,698.00
c) improve other access opportunities	19	43,765.00	4	34,923.00	10	34,851.00
d) improve information and promotion of linear access	46	137,929.00	27	94,317.00	28	123,927.00
e) improve systems/process for linear access management	14	39,099.00	10	31,527.00	10	49,039.00
f) improve records/databases for linear access management	23	203,057.00	16	159,995.00	13	165,075.00
g) deliver additional analysis of linear access	3	11,205.00	5	19,197.00	4	26,085.00
h) Other	3	5,178.00	7	44,853.00	14	125,441.00
Total	275	1,726,560.00	244	1,699,521.00	226	1,699,281.00

Click on the spreadsheet below to view all the projects that did not fit into the pre-designated action types. The “Other” projects are listed by year and by local authority name. (or refer to Appendix 1 for the spreadsheet for the breakdown of “Other” actions if the embedded spreadsheet is not viewable here).



h) "other" projects

The total value of actions includes the additional CCW money that was spent in Yr1. It should be noted that in comparing the number of actions and value of actions between the years that Yr1 had an additional £26k (just over 1% more) to spend on these actions. However, an overall comparison of the number of actions and value between all of the years shows that if authorities are given additional funds they tend to spend it on practical works on the ground.

From the table above, the number of actions has decreased gradually throughout the funding period and the total value of these actions has also decreased (but only slightly between Yr2 and 3). This could be an indication that perhaps authorities are becoming more comfortable in completing larger scale projects rather than lots of smaller scale projects (of more or less of equal value). The flexibility of the RFP in having contingency actions that authorities can

implement at short notice may contribute to this factor, which can act as a safety net should their larger projects not work out as planned. The ability to reallocate any over and underspends within their own allocation has also helped to maximise spend on the programme.

It should also be noted that the winter of 2010/11 was particularly harsh with the ground being frozen for the best part of two months. This also had an impact on the amount and type of work authorities were able to complete.

For all the years, the top 3 actions in order of number and value are:

Action type a) improving linear access

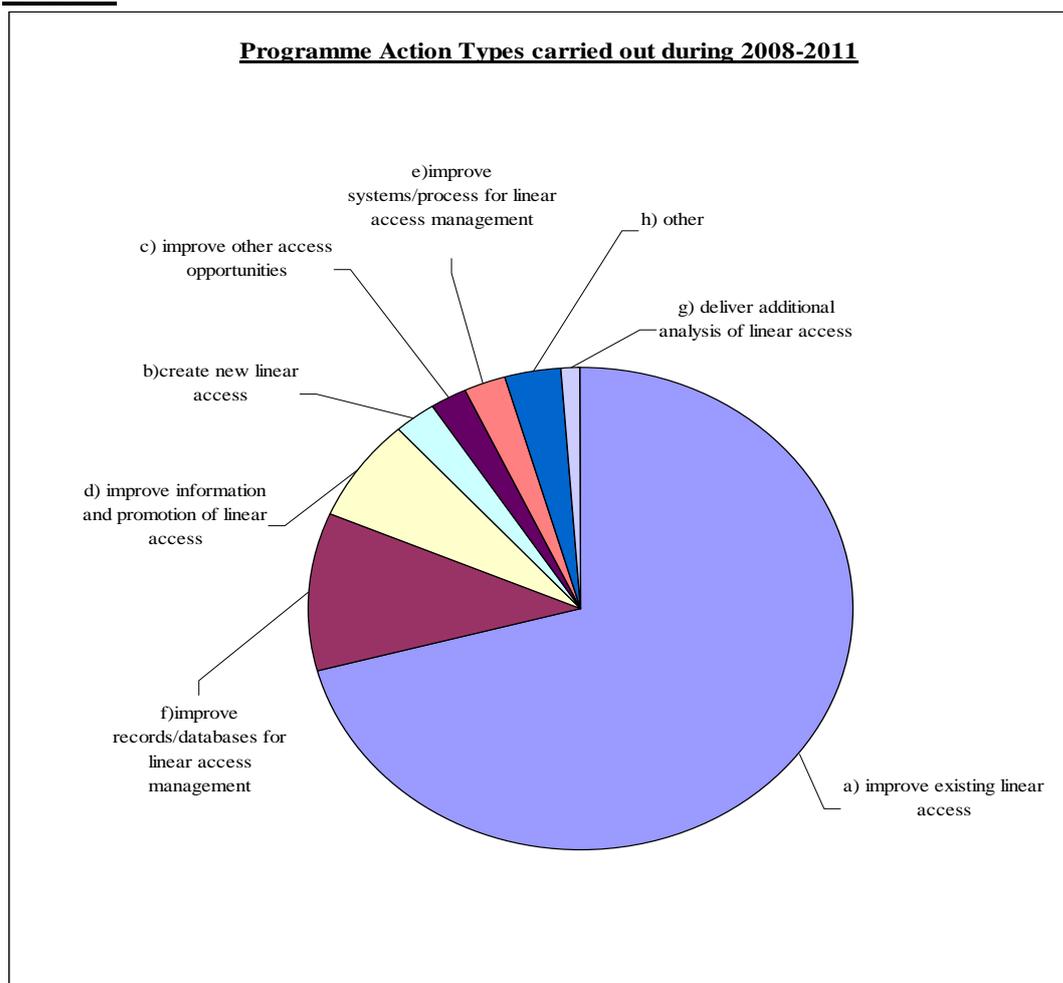
Action type f) improve records/databases for linear access management

Action type d) improve information and promotion of linear access.

The combination of these top 3 actions is logical seen as in order to update the Definitive Map and Statement, practical works on the ground need to be carried out. Only then can improving information and promotional work such as signage, waymarking, leaflets and interpretation boards can be completed to encourage the users onto the newly improved routes.

Despite the majority of the RFP being spent on these 3 actions, it is positive to see that RFP is contributing to other types of works that are also important towards maintaining a well managed PROW network. For example, action type g) deliver additional analysis of linear access has steadily increased during the funding period. The types of work under this action type contribute to monitoring access provision on the PROW network by installing equestrian and people counters and carrying out condition surveys of bridges to ensure that needs of the users of the routes are met. It is also noted that action type h) Other which are actions that do not fit the pre-designated actions have also increased steadily throughout the funding period, possibly because these projects were being developed in Yr1 and ready to implement by Yr2 and Yr3.

Chart 1.



There has been very little change in terms of the proportion of funding used for different actions types between the years. Practical on the ground works (improving existing linear access) continue to be most prioritised by authorities and received by far the greatest proportion of the funding. The biggest difference in the number of actions between the years is the increase in action type h) Other – actions that do not fit any of the other actions which reflects the increasingly wide range of actions being funded through the RFP.

OUTPUTS AND DETAIL

Considering each of these action types in turn, we can look in more detail at the characteristics of the work delivered. Tables 7 to 17 provide further breakdown of the above action types.

Actions types a) and b): Improving existing linear access and creating new linear access

71% of the overall funding was used to improve existing linear access; carrying out a wide variety of works to improve and enhance people's experience of using the routes. Infrastructure works have been completed along with other additional items to allow easier access to the countryside such as:

- Boardwalks – of varying lengths over muddy or previously inaccessible areas.
- Benches – to allow users of the paths to sit and relax along the way and to admire the views along their walks.
- Steps – stabilising slopes that were previously difficult to negotiate and to allow the users to continue along.
- Surfacing and drainage works – to improve the surface so users can use the routes fully.
- Infrastructure dealing with specific situations e.g. dog gate.
- Barriers to prevent illegal use of routes by mechanically propelled vehicles.
- Major removal of vegetation and obstructions to allow access to previously blocked routes.

Authorities identified 30 projects for action type b) create linear access during the 3 year funding period. Looking at the detailed descriptions provided, of the 30 projects, 11 clearly created new linear access. The remaining projects included work that recorded or reinstated linear access rather than creating completely new access, for example, research and processing of claims for unrecorded historic routes and the creation of promoted routes (on existing rights of way).

Local authorities in Wales already have an extensive rights of way network to maintain and improve, this together with the often long and difficult process involved in creating new access, could explain why creating new access is less of a priority than improving existing linear access. The most common inadequacy identified across all ROWIPs in the ROWIP Review was an insufficient number of routes mainly in relation to horse riders and cyclists. Of the 11 actions that were tagged as clearly creating new linear access, 8 actions benefited horse-riders and cyclists.

Table 6 below shows the route lengths reported by authorities as improved to meet 'Easy to Use' standards. Authorities were asked to report on the length of route improved on the basis of links - the definition being that a PROW link begins and ends where it meets:

- a junction with another PROW;
- a metalled road; and/or
- a dead end.

This was in order to show the network length that was now easy to use by the public as a result of RFP work carried out, and not just the length of route which had been physically worked on. This total length **should not** be solely attributed to works and funding under the RFP.

Table 6.1³: Status and Length of Route in km which ROWIP Funding Programme (including contributions from other sources of funding) has contributed to the improvement of during 2008-2011.

Status of route/Financial Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Total
Footpath	714	622	865	2,201
Cycle track	116	13	9	138
Bridleway	231	180	241	652
Restricted Byways	24	25	22	71
Byway Open to All Traffic	16	54	32	102
Totals	1,101	894	1,169	3,164

The figures recorded for Yrs 1 and 2 have been amended in this report as there were reporting errors which were not picked up in the previously issued reports for Yr 1 and Yr 2. Specifically some authorities' figures incorrectly reported metres of path improved rather than kms. These errors have now been corrected and are in the table above. (Amendments in the yearly reports and the 2 year report (covering 2008-2010) have been made accordingly).

When consider the data above, the following factors need to be taken into account:

- The reported figures are those supplied by the local authorities (the light touch administration required for the Programme only allows for basic checks/amendments to ensure that reported figures appear to be of the right order of magnitude).
- The end of year reporting exercise required local authorities to record kilometres worked on for projects types a, b, c (see Outputs section for a definition of these action types). However, some authorities have been reporting on kilometres (unnecessarily) for project types e, f, g and h. While this double counting could have augmented some figures our assessment is this will have been only in a limited way.

There was a reduction in length of routes made easy to use in Yr2 compared to Yr1. Authorities reported that in Yr1 the RFP contributed to making 1,101km easy to use. The reasons for this are unclear but it could be attributed to one or a combination of the following:

- The reporting issues noted above
- Yr1 paths being easier to get into good condition throughout
- Authorities dealing with more difficult routes in Yr2 and Yr3
- That improvements in Yr2 contributed to making routes easier to use but did not result in the whole links being easy to use

³ The figures recorded for Yrs 1 and 2 have been amended in this report as there were reporting errors which were not picked up previously. These errors have now been corrected and are in the table above. (Amendments in the yearly reports and the 2 year report (covering 2008-2010) have been made accordingly).

There were 36 actions that were waymarking routes across Wales. Below is a summary table of the length of kms by status of route.

Status of route/Financial Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Total
Footpath	379	9	14	402
Cycle track	0	1	0	1
Bridleway	37	1	1	40
Restricted Byways	86	0	0	86
Byway Open to All Traffic	3	0	0	3
Totals	505	11	16	531

For 2008/9 and 2009/10, the ROWIP Funding Programme contributed towards 6% (1995km) of the network being easy to use⁴. During the same period the PROW Performance Indicator improved from 49% of the network to around 55% being 'Easy to Use' across Wales. This suggests that the RFP has directly lead to an improvement in the reported performance indicator figures in being easy to use. Nevertheless the 2009/10 PI improvement is the most substantial improvement to Wales' PROW for several years and reflects significant improvements benefiting people locally that are also making an impact that can be perceived at a Wales level.

It is also positive to see an increase in footpaths and bridleways between Yr2 and Yr3, although there is no corresponding increase in cycle tracks for the same years. A possible explanation for this is authorities are concentrating efforts on improving bridleways rather than cycle tracks as walkers, cyclists *and* horse riders benefit. This explains the large number of actions that benefit these user groups (see table 17 for details).

Table 7: Infrastructure installed new or replaced under RFP during 2008-11

Type of Infrastructure/Financial Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Total
Stiles	278	290	276	844
Gates	677	885	645	2,207
Bridges	82	77	101	260
Fingerposts	1,894	664	609	3,167
Waymark posts	1,033	886	3,704	5,623

Table 8: Infrastructure removed under RFP during 2008-11

Type of Infrastructure/Financial Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Total
Stiles	60	118	120	298
Gates	50	277	63	390

Table 7 and 8 provide information about work on infrastructure under RFP. It is encouraging to see that significantly more gates were installed than stiles. This reflects the authorities following good practice and the guidelines issued by CCW and WG for the RFP emphasising the importance of adopting a 'least restrictive access' approach to enable as many people as possible to use the routes being improved.

⁴ The PI for 2010/11 (Yr 3 of the ROWPI Funding Programme) have not been published [as of May 2011]

There was a 31% increase in the installation of new or replaced gates between Yr1 and Yr2 (authorities were not asked to distinguish between the two in their reporting). The number of gates removed under RFP increased by 227 between Yr1 and Yr2.

One type of infrastructure that has been installed increasingly is bridges (including a number which are now accessible for disabled people) which can increase the accessibility of a route, in terms of where a user can go as well as what they can see along the route.

Authorities were asked to state where action types a) and b) also had some element of forming part of a regional trail or links to a National Trail. The information gathered is set out in table 9 below.

Table 9: Actions forming part of regional trail/promoted route or linking to National Trail / Wales Coast Path during 2008-11.

	No of Actions	Value (£)	Value as a % of total
Regional Trail	60	613,261.00	52%
Other	65	410,828.00	35%
National Trail	13	89,136.00	7%
Wales Coast Path	7	76,641.00	6%
Total	145	1,189,866.00	100%

Types of projects included under the ‘other’ category included:

- local circular routes,
- promoted permissive routes,
- routes being developed to be regional trails, and
- routes forming a promoted network e.g. for horse riding.

Action type c) improve other access opportunities.

In addition to local rights of way, ROWIPs should contain information about other types of access in an authority area. The CCW Wales ROWIP Review⁵ showed that 4% of all ROWIP actions relate to CROW Access Land and 6% to other access opportunities. These types of actions are noted under the RFP in category c) improve other access opportunities – this is further categorised below showing what types of access are defined as ‘other access’.

Table 10: Types of Access improved under category c) improve other access opportunities.

Type of Access	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Natural Green Space	18	67,877	60%
Other	14	45,362	40%
Open Access	1	300	<1%
Total	33	113,539	100%

Included in the ‘Other’ type of access were a village green and a play area.

Action type d) improving information and promotion about linear access.

⁵ CCW Policy Research Report No. 08/26. Evison, Taylor and Coleman. (2009) *Wales ROWIP Review*.
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The CCW Wales ROWIP Review showed that offsite promotion/publicity was the second most common type of action across all Wales ROWIPs. Looking at table 5 above, information and promotion is the 3rd highest in number of actions, but only 7% in terms of the value of spend. The following table shows the breakdown into types of information and promotion that was funded under the RFP.

Table 11: Action type d) improving information and promotion about linear access.

Type of info	No of Actions	Value of actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Signage & waymarking	36	180,142	79%
Off Site	17	44,426	20%
Other	15	64,443	28%
Other information & promotional initiatives	2	20,820	9%
Website	10	8,156	4%
Research	6	7,637	3%
On site	12	30,049	13%
Marketing	1	500	0.22%
Total	66	227,078	100%

Signage and way-marking was by far the most common category of works carried out. There were a good variety of ways in which local authorities were promoting routes, using different methods to get their message across to the public such as:

- interpretation boards
- installation of way markers
- printing leaflets (of a particular walk showing highlighting historical points of interest along the way)
- creating web pages for an authority's website, showing routes and cycle maps online,
- creating audio points along a route (these are posts set in the ground with an audio device within them so that when a button is pressed on the post, a sound recording can be heard which describes any points of interest to the user along the route).
- creating a podcast of a particular route which can be downloaded to any mobile device e.g smart phone allowing the user to follow a route by listening to the commentary on the podcast. The pod cast highlights points of interest to the user along the way, allowing for an interactive experience between the user and their environment.

In Yr3, there were no actions regarding websites. At first this may seem a little surprising with the rising popularity of integrating technology with enjoyment of the outdoors. For example, applications that can be downloadable onto mobile devices such as maps of local nature reserves/popular walking and cycling routes/historical routes are becoming increasingly popular with the technologically savvy.

A quick analysis of authority websites has seen that there is already a lot of maps/route information on their sites that are downloadable and the only additional work is to update the existing information which is unlikely to incur costs or be met by other budgets within an authority.

Waymarking was frequently prioritised for improvement within authorities' ROWIPs and continues to be the most frequently carried out improvement to information for linear access.

This may also be because it is so easy to implement (especially with a strong force of volunteers to help) but also because it is an essential part of making routes easy to use, providing reassurance that a particular route is managed and helping avoid possible conflict by keeping users on the correct route.

Action type e) improving systems/processing for linear access management.

At a national scale, the most common (27%) of all ROWIP actions for the 10 year life of the plans relate to management. The table below shows the types of work being delivered under RFP that relate to systems and processes for improved management.⁶

Table 12: Action type e) improving systems/processing for linear access management.

	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Maintenance	15	42,568	44%
Reporting	3	8,791	9%
Monitoring	5	9,143	9%
Other	4	12,910	13%
Enforcement	2	24,241	25%
Total	29	97,653	100%

Action type f) improving records/databases for linear access management.

The definitive map and statement underpins the management of the rights of way network. The Wales ROWIP Review showed definitive map related work as another common area of work in all ROWIP Actions, and one on which new staff would need to be deployed.

Table 13: Action type f) improving records/databases for linear access management.

	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Bringing the definitive map together	30	338,042	64%
Developing/improving electronic PROW mgmt system	11	131,306	25%
Other	10	58,778	11%
Total	51	528,126	100%

Work being delivered under this type of project included:

- Dealing with Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)
- Reviewing [outstanding] RUPP re-classification orders
- Scanning in draft, provisional and Definitive maps pre 1975
- Removing the backlog of Legal Event Orders (LEOs)

This is an action which has had a consistent level of staff input (be it on a FTA basis or internal) throughout the 3 year funding period dedicated to work on the Definitive Map and statement. For some examples that demonstrate how rights of way staff are an integral way

⁶ CCW Policy Research Report No. 08/26. Evison, Taylor and Coleman. (2009) *Wales ROWIP Review*.
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of delivering projects under the RFP please refer to the document ‘Case Studies of Rights of Way Funding Programme 2008-2011’.

Action type g) delivering additional analysis of linear access

Some authorities were carrying out works that involved additional analysis of information about use or provision of access which is needed to inform future working. The types of work delivered under this action type included:

- Installation of equestrian counters to monitor levels of use
- Survey of network condition and assessing condition in preparation for regional route promotion
- Feasibility studies for network improvement projects
- Purchase of people/cycle counters
- Survey of 150 bridges in a variety of locations to ascertain the type and condition of the bridges and the accessibility and the condition of paths to the bridges. Particular attention was made to the decking, handrails, side posts, guard rails, bracing supports, bridge seats, abutments and the ground conditions. Photographs were taken of every bridge and defect found.
- Purchasing a camera to take photos of historical documents in the archives such as old maps showing boundaries to assist in the modification order process and consultation process.

Table 14: Action type g) delivering additional analysis of linear access.

These actions involved work where additional analysis of information about use or provision of access was needed to inform future working.

	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Additional survey/analysis of access provision	9	52,903	94%
Other	1	3,585	6%
Total	10	56,488	100%

Action type h) Other

These actions were classed as h) Other because the authorities that were recording them felt that they did not fit into the other pre-designated project types.

Table 15: Action type h) other

	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of spend
Other	24	175,472.00	3%

Actions recorded under this category included:

- Improving site security
- Preventing misuse of Rights of Way
- Assisting in the management of motorised access into the countryside
- Assisting with information to inform bridge inspection policy
- Procurement of resources

6. WHO IS INTENDED TO BENEFIT FROM ACTIONS

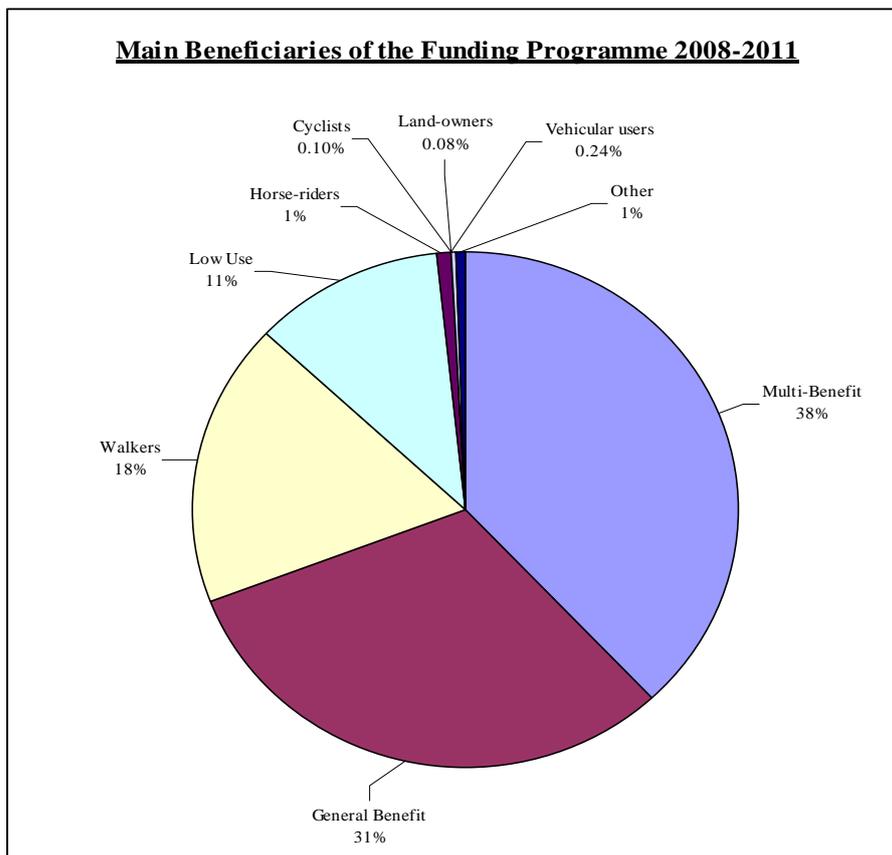
Authorities were asked to show the intended beneficiary of each action.

Table 16: below shows the main beneficiaries of the ROWIP Funding Programme during 2008-2011 (ordered on the value).

Beneficiary	No of actions	Value of projects for each type of beneficiary £
Multi-benefit	220	1,950,922
General benefit	210	1,587,976
Walkers	210	918,264
Low use	77	588,404
Horse riders	12	31,857
Cyclists	6	4,965
Landowners	2	4,236
Vehicular users	2	12,501
Other	6	26,235
Total	745	5,125,360

Projects benefiting more than one user i.e multi-benefit whether they include low use groups or those who are not classed as low users of the countryside (e.g walkers, cyclists) and projects providing a “general benefit to all users” have *not* been included in the analysis of projects for low use groups.

Chart 2 below: Based on the value as a % of the total.



The top 3 beneficiaries are ‘Multi-Benefit’, ‘General Benefit’ [to all users], and ‘Walkers’. The greatest proportion of multi-benefit actions was for a combination of walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This distribution of actions by beneficiary has been consistent over the 3 year funding period.

It is important to note that improvements for horse riders and cyclists are generally multi-benefit, because improvements on bridleways and cycle routes inevitably also benefit walkers.

There were few actions which were specifically identified as solely benefiting landowners, these included:

- Dealing with path erosion (Torfaen)
- Improving signposting and installing a new bridge (Brecon Beacons)

There was one project designed for people who are visually impaired (Newport).

Upon analysing the data for those projects recorded as multi-benefit it became quickly apparent that there were many different permutations of multi-benefit, too many to offer any single meaningful analysis. It is important to remember that low use groups can also be included in these projects as well as beneficiaries that have a low number of actions e.g cyclists and horse riders. It is positive to see that a large section of actions under the RFP are benefiting such a wide variety of users.

Table 17: Summary of Multi-benefit projects during 2008-11

Multi-benefit groups 2008-11	Number of actions
Walkers, cyclists, horse riders	101
Other multi-benefit projects	119

Total no of projects	220
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Another interesting point is that although walkers feature in all of the 101 projects mentioned above, they also featured in *some* of the remaining 119 projects. Thus increasing the number of projects benefiting walkers overall. The Wales ROWIP Review identified that the majority of actions contained within ROWIPs would benefit walkers with horse riders and cyclists not far behind.

Biodiversity Projects: There were a variety of projects that assisted public understanding of, or conservation of, local biodiversity.

Table 17 Actions which included a biodiversity element.

Type of Biodiversity action	No of Actions	Value of Actions (£)	Value as a % of total
Biodiversity projects	51	594,236	98%
Festival	1	7,258	1%
Information	1	3,922	1%
Access to LNR/ SINC site/ Tree Planting Area	2	2,305	0.4%
Total	55	607,721	100%

‘Biodiversity projects’ refers to actions that benefit nature conservation/biodiversity which then benefit members of the public. Authorities have been fulfilling this condition of funding to some extent as action type d) improve information and promotion of linear access is very closely linked with this condition.

Some authorities have provided information about conservation and biodiversity in the form of route leaflets (with points of interest) and interpretation boards. The festival project involved members of the public coming together for a countryside festival to participate in bat walks, guided walks around a National Nature Reserve and a ‘Wild Food and Foraging’ walk.

END

This paper was prepared by Susan Jackson (ROWIP Funding Officer), Eve Nicholson (Access Grants Co-ordinator) and Lucy Swannell (Access Policy Officer), May 2011