

Powys County Council

Countryside Services

Prioritisation of Works on Public Rights of Way

When a report is received by Countryside Services, it will be assessed and logged. Priority 1 work will receive the most urgent attention, the higher the number, the lower the priority.

Higher Tiered Approach

Priority 1	Issues where risk has been assessed as significant in terms of potential harm to people, animals or property.
Priority 2	Reports of development being undertaken that are negatively affecting PRoW or where there are re-occurring offences.
Priority 3	Work on external grant funded projects (including capital works on byways/bridges, WG or NRW funded projects etc.)
Priority 4	Issues reported on Powys recreational trails.
Priority 5	Priority Project Approach (see details below).
Priority 6	Glastir and Landowner Requests (supply materials only).
Priority 7	Maintenance of previously maintained routes → pass to volunteers (if works cannot be resolved by volunteers, issue to sit within prioritisation system as outlined here).
Priority 8	All other works.

Note - Where notice is served on the Highway Authority, legal obligations will be met. However, any works required will fit into the priority list above.

The maintenance of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) are to be prioritised in the same way as other public rights of way, but the sustainability of the use of BOATs across Powys will be determined by the Council's "Motorised Access Strategy".

Priority Project Approach

Priority projects will aim to provide improved access, appropriate to the needs of the community. This may be a short section of path that needs surfacing to provide *access for all* along a key route, targeted attention on a network of public rights of way, or a trail several miles long allowing access to a local viewpoint or a nearby settlement. The key is engaging with the local community and volunteers to find out what is most important to that area.

Area Officers are to have a 3 year rolling plan in place by 1st April each year. This will enable communities' time to plan their project, seek funding where appropriate and get volunteers in place. The intention will be to complete one project each financial year. Therefore, the scale of projects will need to be appropriate to the availability of resources.

Officers will:

- Consult and take advice from the LAF to help determine Priority Project Areas as per criteria outlined below.
- Consult respective Town and Community Councils and other interested community groups.
- Ask communities for put forward their own prioritised plans, taking into account guidance provided by Countryside Services.

The criteria to be taken into consideration when choosing/planning Priority Projects are as follows:

- a) The number of reports within a geographic community council area.
- b) The availability of a volunteer workforce in the area.
- c) Whether there is external funding available.
- d) The Community have requested works on their public rights of way (this can be from Town or Community Councils or other established community groups).
- e) Whether this area has been a *Priority Community* in the past.
- f) The existence of *honeypot* sites that attract a lot of visitors.
- g) The project meets health and well-being objectives.
- h) There are links to recreational trails.
- i) The project would improve access for all, with the potential for disability friendly access being made available.

APPENDIX 2

- j) The project meets current Regeneration objectives/the area is in the Walkers are Welcome scheme.
- k) The potential for multi-user networks.