

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
7 December 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Jackie Charlton
Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys**

SUBJECT: Question from Peter Foulkes

Why are PCC so reluctant to convert the Byway Open to all Vehicles (BOAT) status of the Monks Trod, as it crosses Powys' section of the Elenydd, into a Bridleway? This updating of the route's Public Right of Way (PROW) status is the stand out solution to the terrible damage still being inflicted on this ancient route, part of which crosses a National Nature Reserve (NNR).

The Monk's Trod is an ancient route that traverses over a fragile landscape and we are working towards finding a way forward that will allow for its sustainable use, through a collaborative approach, across the various stakeholders and user groups.

It is the local authority's view that a legal restriction or status change alone is highly unlikely to resolve the issues. This is open, unfenced country; which makes managing, monitoring and enforcing any form of restriction extremely challenging.

To achieve a positive outcome, we consider we must continue to engage with the user groups who access this area and increase awareness of the reasons why we need to protect it. The Countryside and Recreation team are also exploring funding options; for the Monks Trod is an iconic cross-border route that does have very significant potential for tourism.

In summary, work is ongoing to look at all options and particularly, to achieve collaboration with all of those with an interest, as no solution will be effective without that.