



The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing in Wales (ENRaW) Green Trails.

Local Access Forum Meeting – Dec 2021

1. Project Background

1.1 The Green Trails project aims to pilot delivery of a coherent network of green corridors within the South Wales Central region for the purposes of improving bridleway access and habitat connectivity. The project also explores financial and practical measures to secure the long-term sustainability of that network.

1.2 The objectives of the project are:

1. To provide safe access opportunities for horse and bike users
2. To establish sustainable management systems that enhance ecological resilience
3. To animate communities and establish connective structures at a regional level.
4. To undertake feasibility for development of a gateway facility that will contribute to long term sustainability.

1.3 The proposed project activities follow production of a Green Trails Network Plan funded under an earlier round of ENRAW small scale funding.

1.4 The proposed project activities are:

- Delivery of a long distance horse and mountain bike trail linking hubs of bridleway access across the South Wales Central region (Bridgend, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, RCT, Merthyr) as developed in the Green Trails Network Plan (includes route, works and costs).
- Enhancement of biodiversity in and around the trail. This includes mapping adjacent habitats and establishing connections to the core route; collection and assessment of baseline ecological data; Prescribing detailed management practices by location; and producing practical guidance for volunteer partners.
- Animating and supporting local, user and nature conservation groups towards delivering and sustaining the trail.

- Scoping and feasibility for development of a profit making gateway facility (bike-park) that will contribute to financially sustaining the regional trail in the long term.

1.5 Delivery of the trail will involve creation of legal rights and ground works. It will be focussed around maintaining momentum amongst emergent user communities by involving them in the process and demonstrating achievements.

2. Partnership Working

2.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Council are acting as the lead partner amongst a collaboration of the following partners:

Name of the entity	What role/activity will the entity deliver for the proposed project? Please provide details of the specific roles/activity they will be undertaking.
Bridgend CC	Highway authority for the respective county. Competent authority for creation, improvement and management of public rights of way
Vale of Glamorgan CC	Highway authority for the respective county. Competent authority for creation, improvement and management of public rights of way
Cardiff CC	Highway authority for the respective county. Competent authority for creation, improvement and management of public rights of way
Rhondda Cynon Taff CC	Highway authority for the respective county. Competent authority for creation, improvement and management of public rights of way
Merthyr Tydfil CC	Highway authority for the respective county. Competent authority for creation, improvement and management of public rights of way
British Horse Society	Contact and coordination of user base (horse riders) for animation and volunteer activities. Advice on trail standards.
Sustrans	Coordination of linkages with National Cycle Network.
Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation	Assistance with promotion, marketing and user networks

Cycling UK	Contact and coordination of user base (cyclists) for animation and volunteer activities. Expertise in development of previous long distance bike trails.
The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	Contact and coordination of volunteer activities. Advisory role in respect of ecological activities.

3. Funding

3.1 An award of funding has been made under the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing scheme, providing the following until June 2023:

Total Eligible Capital Expenditure	£5,435.00
Capital Grant Rate	100%
Maximum Capital Grant	£5,435.00
Total Eligible Revenue Expenditure	£1,038,372.00
Revenue Grant Rate	100%
Maximum Revenue Grant	£1,038,372.00

4. Staffing

A Project Officer, Senior Field Officer, Field Officers (x2) and Biodiversity Officer have been recruited to support the project. All have commenced employment in their new roles with the exception of the Biodiversity Officer who will begin in January.