Rights of Way Questionnaire

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1. Introduction

Gwynedd Council, jointly with the Snowdonia National Park Authority, intend to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

The ROWIP is a strategic document to be used by Local Authorities in order to plan for the management, development and promotion of their rights of way network. The ROWIP sets a framework to identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to the rights of way network and access to the countryside for the benefit of walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, individuals with mobility problems and others.

Rights of Way include public footpaths, bridleways and byways (usually narrow lanes, often unsurfaced) but they do not include roads.

As part of the review, the service was eager to ascertain the views of the public to assist them to plan for how they could improve and maintain the Rights of Way network in Gwynedd.   The responses to the questionnaire will therefore be considered when reviewing the ROWIP.

The Categorisation System
This procedure of categorising rights of way has been adopted by Gwynedd Council in order to assist to prioritise resources towards maintaining the rights of way network.   The majority of the county's rights of way fall into one of four categories. Currently, the Council gives priority to paths in categories 1 and 2, namely approximately 45% of the network.

Category 1
The majority of these paths are extensively used and form links within towns, villages or between public transport facilities, car parks and attractions.   They include:
- Paths and routes promoted by Gwynedd Council and the National Park including the Coast Path.
- Paths that connect urban areas or paths within urban areas.
- The Lonydd Glas network and the paths with high potential to be developed into "Active Travel" paths.

Category 2
Popular paths mainly used for recreational purposes including paths around communities, circular walks or access to open land or beaches.   These include:
- Paths promoted by Gwynedd Council, the National Park and community organisations including Community Councils.
- Paths that are less likely to be suitable for development into "Active Travel" paths.

Category 3

These are paths that are rarely used, but nevertheless form links between paths in categories 1 and 2. They are paths with the potential to be used to promote walking between communities or to form a part of a route that can be promoted in the future.

Category 4

Paths without any obvious use or potential where an alternative provision of paths in higher categories is available. Usually, they do not have much potential to create useful links or form part of a promoted route. They also include paths with doubt regarding their status where it is unlikely that this will be resolved.

The questionnaire is part of preparatory work for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan review, which the Council is required to prepare in accordance with the Countryside and Access Act 2000.   As part of the review, the service was eager to ascertain the views of the public to assist them to plan for how they could improve and maintain the Rights of Way network in Gwynedd.   This report analyses the results of the questionnaire.

2.   Methodology

In order to discover the views of Gwynedd residents on access needs to feed into the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, a questionnaire was used as a way of gathering information.

This questionnaire is based on the Wales outdoor leisure review conducted by Natural Resources Wales.

The questionnaire response period ran from 10 July to 1 September 2017.

A digital questionnaire was available on the 'Have your say' page, namely the consultation site on the Council's website, in order to gather the views of the general public.

Paper copies of the questionnaires were provided in each in every Siop Gwynedd, along with libraries and leisure centres across the county.

The consultation was promoted through the 'Have your say' page and through the Council's social media pages, namely Facebook and Twitter.   The questionnaire was also promoted by Snowdonia National Park.

Responses were received through the post and through on-line questionnaires.

3.   Response to the questionnaires

This section of the report will analyse the responses to the questionnaires.

3.01 How were the responses received?

A total of 1,386 valid responses were received to the questionnaire.

In *Graph001* you can see a breakdown of how the questionnaires were filled in. It is seen that the vast majority, namely 97.1% (Number=1,346) of the responses have been filled in on-line. Whilst the number of paper answers, 2.9% (N=40) are low in comparison.

Graph001
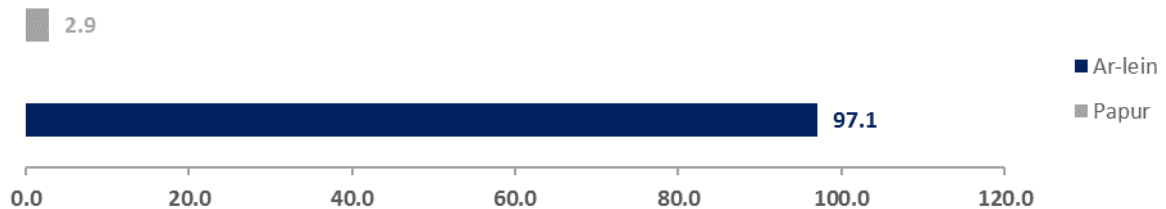
Your use of Rights of Way

3.02 Question 1. How often do you use rights of way for some of the activities below?

It can be seen from the table below that the most popular use made of rights of way was for walking - with almost half (43.6%) of responders noting that they walked every day, and almost one in every five (18.0%) noting that they walked twice a week. The second most popular activity was cycling - but people do this less often than walking (just over 25% do this at least once a week). The numbers who horse-ride is very low in comparison, almost 15% do this at least once a week.

Tabl001

	Daily	Twice a week	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never	No response
Walking	43.6%	18.0%	18.2%	6.8%	6.9%	2.0%	4.5%
Cycling	5.3%	9.7%	11.5%	9.7%	16.2%	18.0%	29.6%
Riding	6.3%	4.2%	4.3%	0.8%	4.6%	43.7%	36.1%
Horse and cart	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	2.0%	50.6%	45.4%
Other	2.4%	2.5%	2.1%	0.8%	2.3%	38.5%	51.4%

3.03 Question 2. If other – please note what activity?

Some activities being noted apart from the above were running, kayaking / canoeing and driving.

3.04 Question 3. If you have noted 'Never' for any of the above, what is your main reason/s for not using Rights of Way?

Note from the table below that the reason most people give for not using rights of way is that there is insufficient information about them (8.3%, N=115). Please see all responses in *Table002* .

Table002

	Number	Percentage
Disability	37	2.7
Age	34	2.5
Poor health	25	1.8
Insufficient information about them	115	8.3
Too busy	65	4.7

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Poor weather	26	1.9
Other	415	29.9
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question		

For those who noted 'Other', namely 29.9% (N=415), the reason given was that they did not own a horse and cart or bicycle.
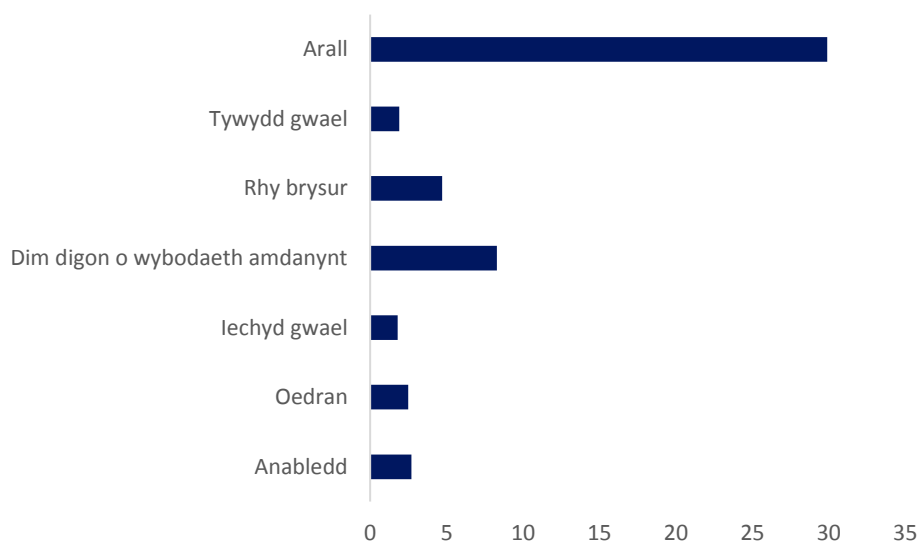

3.05   Question 4. How much time do you spend doing these activities at a time?

The most common answer to this question was 'more than two hours' with almost half (47.0%, N=652) of the responders noting this.   Just over a third of the responders (36.9%, N=512) noted that they did the activities for an hour to two hours, with almost one in every five responders (17.4%, N=241) noting that they did the activities for half an hour to an hour.

Table003

	Number	Percentage
Less than half an hour	62	4.5
Half an hour to an hour	241	17.4
An hour to two hours	512	36.9
More than two hours	652	47.0
Other	39	2.8
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question		

Of those who had noted 'other' the answers varied from noting that they did activities throughout the day to noting that the times they did activities varied, dependent on the activity and the situation.

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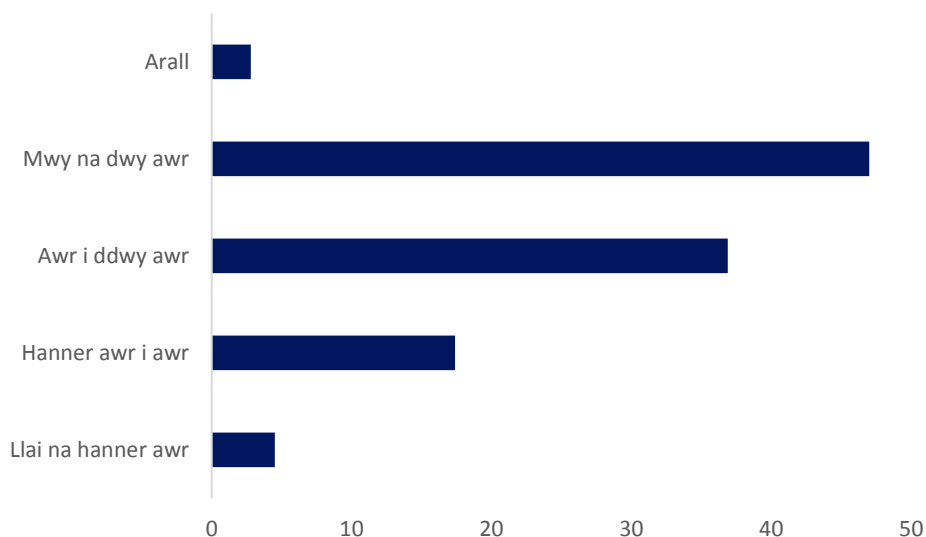
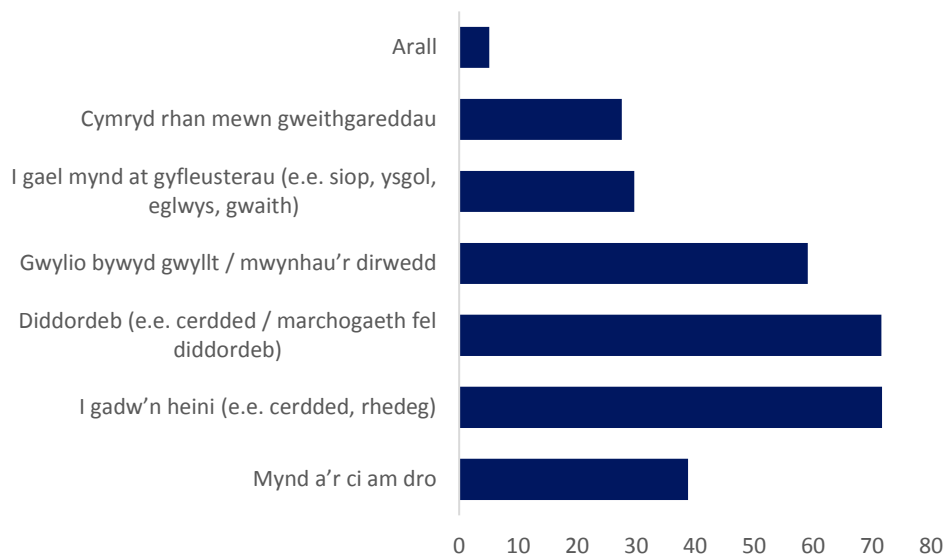## 3.06 Question 5. What's your main reasons for using a Right of Way?

Note that almost three-quarters of the responders used rights of way to keep fit (71.7%, N=994) and because of their interests (71.6%, N=993).   A large number also use them to watch wildlife / enjoy the landscape (59.1%, N=819).

Table004

	Number	Percentage
Taking the dog for a walk	538	38.8
To keep fit (e.g. walking, running)	994	71.7
Interests (e.g. walking / horse-riding as an interest)	993	71.6
Watching wildlife / enjoying the landscape	819	59.1
To access facilities (e.g. shop, school, church, work)	412	29.7
Taking part in activities	382	27.6
Other	71	5.1
Total		
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question		

Of those who noted 'other', the reasons included things such as working / going to work and to avoid roads.

Graph003

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Arall						
Cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau						
I gael mynd at gyfleusterau (e.e. siop, ysgol, eglwys, gwaith)						
Gwylio bywyd gwyllt / mwynhau'r dirwedd						
Diddordeb (e.e. cerdded / marchogaeth fel diddordeb)						
I gadw'n heini (e.e. cerdded, rhedeg)						
Mynd a'r ci am dro						

## 3.07 Question 6. Which of these methods of going to the countryside do you prefer?

This question asked responders to rank the methods from 1 to 8. Note that the methods ranked highest are public paths and lands with open access. Those ranking lowest are the lands of the national trust, beaches and forestry lands.

Table005

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8
Public Footpaths	555 (40.0)	286 (20.6)	130 (9.4)	77 (5.6)	45 (3.2)	58 (4.2)	31 (2.2)	41 (3.0)
Other Rights of Way (e.g. Bridleways or Byways)	139 (10.0)	254 (18.3)	159 (11.5)	140 (10.1)	111 (8.0)	117 (8.4)	94 (6.8)	122 (8.8)
Paths with a right of way (e.g. Lonydd Glas Network)	33 (2.4)	161 (11.6)	200 (14.4)	147 (10.6)	148 (10.7)	143 (10.3)	168 (12.1)	128 (9.2)
Forestry Lands	35 (2.5)	85 (6.1)	142 (10.2)	175 (12.6)	150 (10.8)	212 (15.3)	198 (14.3)	129 (9.3)
National Trust Lands	10 (0.7)	61 (4.4)	111 (8.0)	147 (10.6)	180 (13.0)	185 (13.3)	218 (15.7)	212 (15.3)
Small rural lanes	49 (3.5)	126 (9.1)	190 (13.7)	193 (13.9)	205 (14.8)	143 (10.3)	155 (11.2)	123 (8.9)
Beaches	71 (5.1)	186 (13.4)	210 (15.2)	196 (14.1)	163 (11.8)	135 (9.7)	107 (7.7)	131 (9.5)

|								
Lands with Open Access	421 (30.4)	120 (8.7)	103 (7.4)	124 (8.9)	146 (10.5)	113 (8.2)	112 (8.1)	104 (7.5)
The percentages will not add up to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question								

Graph004
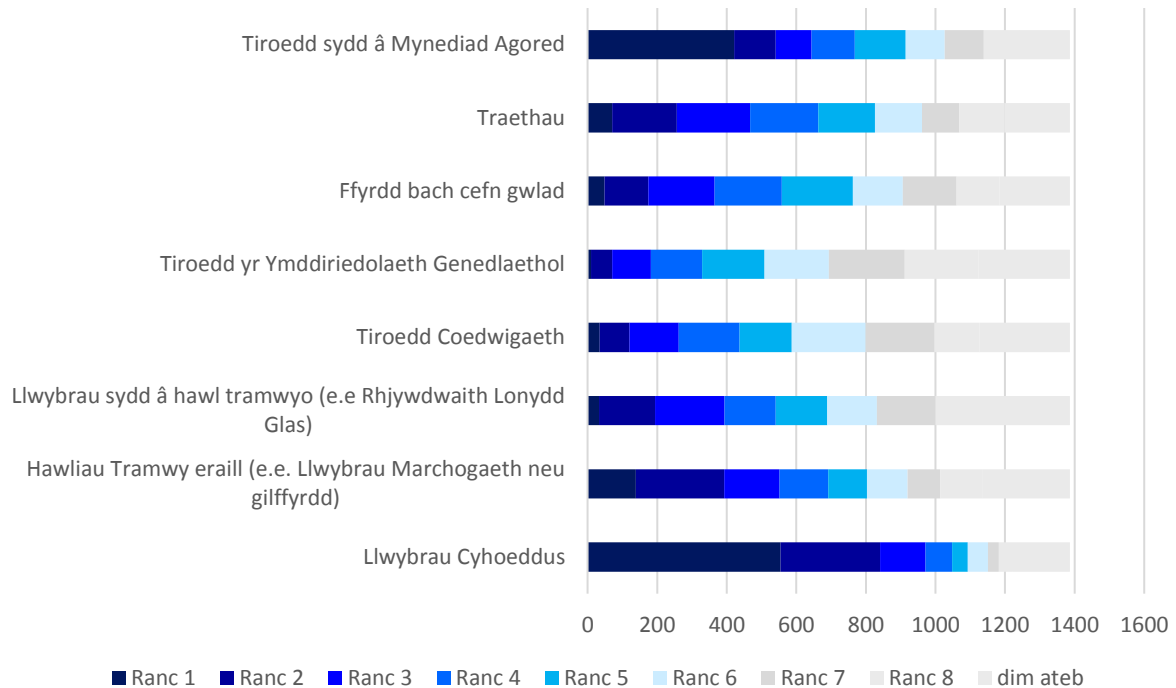
3.08   Question 7. If you use Rights of Way, which of the following would you take with you/use?

Note from the table below that the things that people were most likely to take with them when using rights of way were water/a drink (78.8%, N=1,092), a smart phone or tablet (68.1%, N=94$) and a map (63.4%, N=879). A small number noted that they would take a wheelchair (1.6%, N=22). Some of the 'other' answers included suitable clothing, binoculars and a compass.

Table006

	Number	Percentage
Map	879	63.4
A dog	532	38.4
A pram or child	149	10.8
Bicycle	506	36.5
Wheelchair	22	1.6
Water / A drink	1092	78.8
Food	769	55.5
Smart phone / tablet	944	68.1
Horse	242	17.5
Nothing	38	2.7
Other	146	10.5
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question		

Graph005
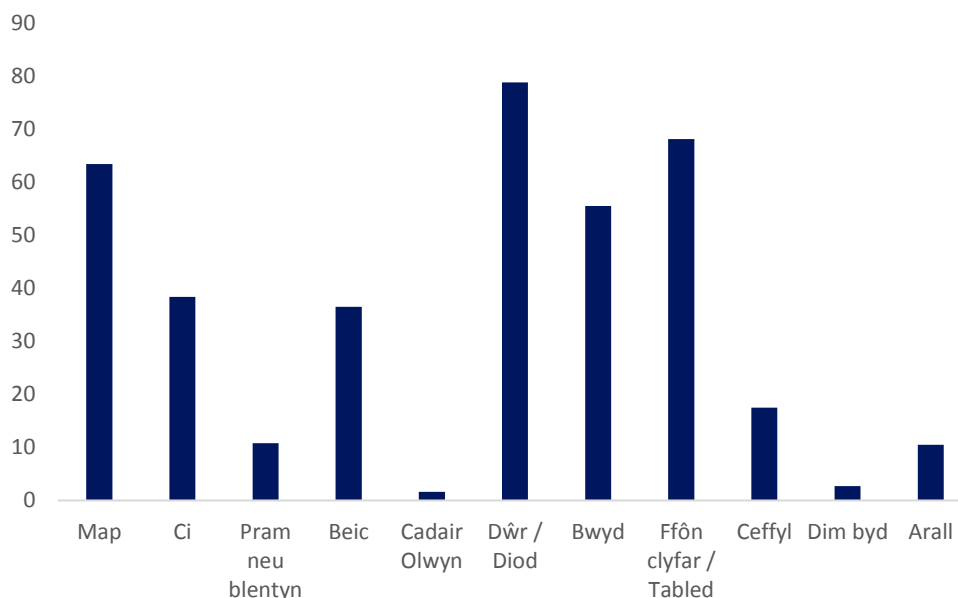
3.09 Question 8. Have you come across any problems when using rights of way in Gwynedd?
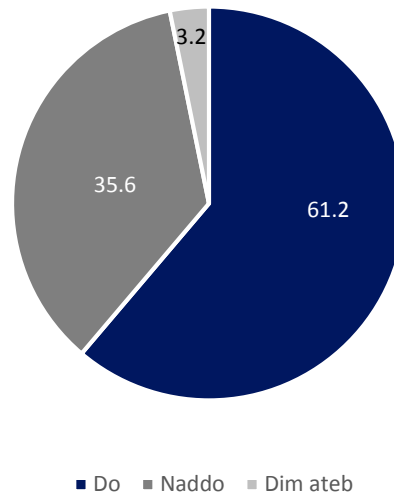
Over half (61.2%, N=848) of the responders have come across problems when using rights of way in Gwynedd.

Table007

	Number	Percentage

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Yes		848	61.2
No		493	35.6
No response		45	3.2
Total		1386	100%

Graph006

- Do   - Naddo   - Dim ateb

3.10 Question 9. Have you come across the problems below whilst using rights of way in Gwynedd?

Those who answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

The reasons most often noted as serious problems, namely a score of 5, was path intentionally obstructed (36.6%, N=261), lack of signage or misleading signage (29.3%, N=216), and overgrowth / fallen trees (28.0%, N=215).

The ones that were low level problems to the responders were being threatened by landowners or others on the path (44.6%, N=267), bridges in poor/ dangerous condition (37.8%, N=227), and threatening dogs (34.8%, N=218).

Table008

	1 (low level problem)	2	3	4	5 (serious problem)
Lack of signage or misleading signage	90 (12.2%)	98 (13.3%)	181 (24.5%)	153 (20.7%)	216 (29.3%)

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Overgrown / fallen trees	103 (13.4%)	117 (15.3%)	192 (25.0%)	140 (18.3%)	215 (28.0%)
Uneven surface, holes, deep water or mud	146 (20.4%)	141 (19.7%)	166 (23.2%)	128 (17.9%)	135 (18.9%)
Stiles or gates in a poor condition	113 (15.8%)	144 (20.1%)	178 (24.9%)	150 (20.9%)	131 (18.3%)
Bridges in poor / dangerous condition	227 (37.8%)	135 (22.5%)	113 (18.8%)	57 (9.5%)	69 (11.5%)
Path intentionally obstructed e.g. locked gates or a fence across the path	141 (19.8%)	84 (11.8%)	101 (14.2%)	126 (17.7%)	261 (36.6%)
Farm animals	176 (26.5%)	146 (22.0%)	134 (20.2%)	106 (16.0%)	101 (15.2%)
Dog fouling	156 (23.1%)	131 (19.4%)	126 (18.7%)	106 (15.7%)	156 (23.1%)
Threatening dogs	218 (34.8%)	140 (22.3%)	103 (16.4%)	77 (12.3%)	89 (14.2%)
Being threatened by a landowner or by someone else on the path	267 (44.6%)	110 (18.4%)	75 (12.5%)	56 (9.4%)	90 (15.1%)

Graph007

Chart legend: 1 (problem lefel isel) 2 3 4 5 (problem difrifol) Dim ateb

Chart categories (top to bottom):
- Cael eich bygwth gan dirfeddiannwr neu rywun arall ar…
- Cŵn bygythiol
- Baw ci
- Anifeiliaid fferm
- Llwybr wedi ei rwystro'n fwriadol er enghriafft giatiau…
- Pontydd mewn cyflwr gwael / peryglus
- Camfeydd neu giatiau mewn cyflwr gwael
- Wyneb anwastad, tyllau, dŵr neu fwd dwfn
- Gordyfiant / coed wedi disgyn
- Diffyg arwyddion neu arwyddion camarweiniol

3.11 Question 10. Note below if you have any further observations on the problems you have encountered when using rights of way.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

Some of the matters arising were blocked / closed paths, overgrown paths, lack of wheelchair access, lack of signage / path unclear, rubbish.

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Your views

3.12   Question 11. What type of paths are most important to you?
Rate their importance from 1 to 5, where '1' equates to your most important and '5' equates to your least important.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

Note from the table below that the type of paths that are most important to the responders are circular routes (43.5%, N=311) and local journeys in my area (42.0%, N=303).   The type of paths that were least important to people were paths from one place to another (24.7%, N=168) and long-distance journeys (16.6%, N=113).

Table009

|	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Long-distance journeys	178 (26.1%)	112 (16.4%)	152 (22.3%)	126 (18.5%)	113 (16.6%)
Paths from one place to another (A to B)	169 (24.7%)	129 (18.9%)	173 (25.3%)	108 (15.8%)	104 (15.2%)
Circular Paths	311 (43.5%)	106 (14.8%)	93 (13.0%)	75 (10.5%)	130 (18.2%)
Themed journeys or journeys from a leaflet	120 (18.8%)	118 (18.5%)	166 (26.0%)	125 (19.6%)	110 (17.2%)
Local journey in my area	303 (42.0%)	116 (16.1%)	88 (12.2%)	64 (8.9%)	150 (20.8%)
Accessible paths	238 (35.2%)	99 (14.6%)	120 (17.7%)	67 (9.9%)	153 (22.6%)

3.13 Question 12. How would you reach the walking path?

Note that the majority of responders reach the walking path either by walking (66.5%, N=922), or ny using a car (63.6%, N=881).

Table010

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|	Number	Percentage
Car	881	63.6
Bus	225	16.2
Train	161	11.6
Bicycle	281	20.3
Walking	922	66.5
Other	104	7.5

Graph008
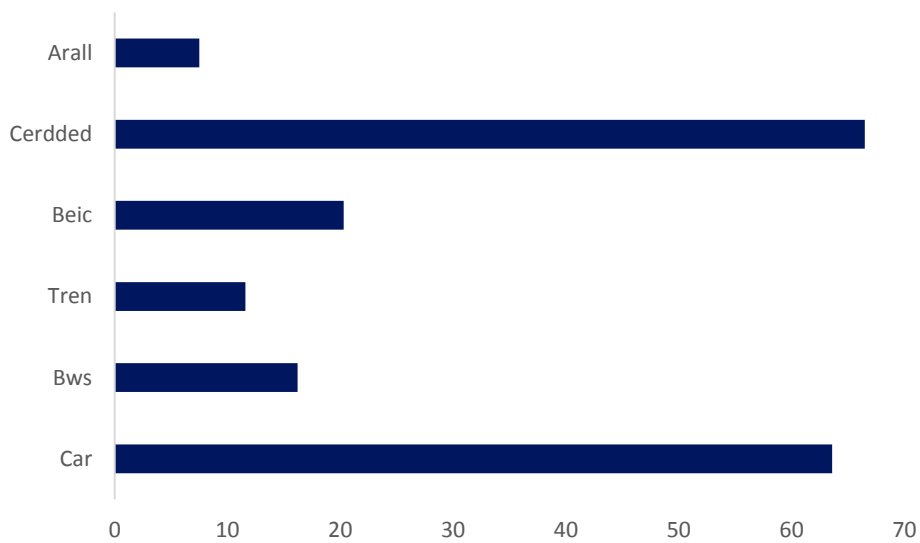
3.14 Question 13. Where would you search for information about Rights of Way?

The majority of responders noted that they would search for information about rights of way on an OS map (62.7%, N=869). Some of the other most common answers were asking friends / family (34.3%, N=476), on Snowdonia National Park's website (33.0%, N=457), and on Gwynedd Council's website (31.6%, N=438).

Table011

	Number	Percentage
On Gwynedd Council's website	438	31.6
On Snowdonia National Park's website	457	33.0
Other websites	404	29.1
Council Offices	44	3.2
Natural Resources Wales	157	11.3
Tourist Information Centres	302	21.8
Leaflet or Handbook	420	30.3
Walking guide book	348	25.1
O.S. Map	869	62.7
Library	102	7.4
Information on panels	207	14.9
Asking friends / family	476	34.3

Graph009
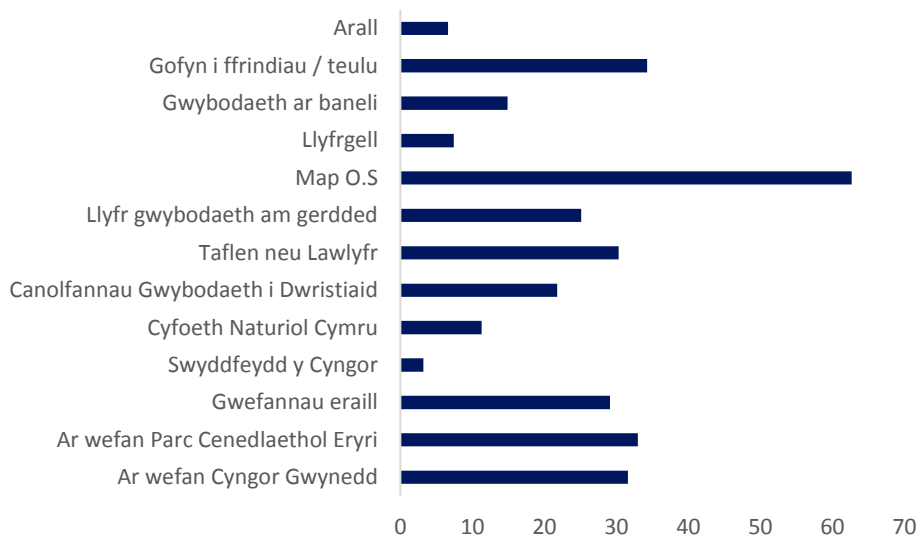
3.15 Question 14. What information about Rights of Way is most important to you?

The information about rights of way that is most important to the responders is general information about public footpaths, their use and general countryside (17.5%, N=243). A high number also rank the exact location of the starting point of paths as an important factor (16.6%, N=230). There was not much difference in the other categories, except that a number had ranked specific legal rights as less important (18.5%, N=256).

Table012

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8	Rank 9	Rank 10

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General information about public footpaths, their use and general countryside	243 (17.5%)	157 (11.3%)	96 (6.9%)	90 (6.5%)	83 (6.0%)	73 (5.3%)	69 (5.0%)	50 (3.6%)	67 (4.8%)	64 (4.6%)
Specific legal rights	66 (4.8%)	96 (6.9%)	49 (3.5%)	55 (4.0%)	52 (3.8%)	63 (4.5%)	75 (5.4%)	81 (5.8%)	107 (7.7%)	256 (18.5%)
Exact location of the starting point of paths	230 (16.6%)	212 (15.3%)	147 (10.6%)	126 (9.1%)	80 (5.8%)	78 (5.6%)	44 (3.2%)	39 (2.8%)	29 (2.1%)	17 (1.2%)
Journeys from specific locations and their distance	81 (5.8%)	151 (10.9%)	166 (12.0%)	131 (9.5%)	145 (10.5%)	98 (7.1%)	78 (5.6%)	53 (3.8%)	49 (3.5%)	16 (1.2%)
Paths marked with panels	65 (4.7%)	118 (8.5%)	128 (9.2%)	118 (8.5%)	127 (9.2%)	125 (9.0%)	94 (6.8%)	78 (5.6%)	71 (5.1%)	30 (2.2%)
Pamphlets about paths	25 (1.8%)	56 (4.0%)	94 (6.8%)	116 (8.4%)	106 (7.6%)	119 (8.6%)	117 (8.4%)	129 (9.3%)	109 (7.9%)	59 (4.3%)
The suitability of paths for different needs	77 (5.6%)	90 (6.5%)	103 (7.4%)	76 (5.5%)	78 (5.6%)	96 (6.9%)	127 (9.2%)	115 (8.3%)	117 (8.4%)	67 (4.8%)
Number and types of gates and stiles	17 (1.2%)	49 (3.5%)	70 (5.1%)	79 (5.7%)	65 (4.7%)	80 (5.8%)	99 (7.1%)	161 (11.6%)	167 (12.0%)	117 (8.4%)
Traffic and access to paths	39 (2.8%)	95 (6.9%)	106 (7.6%)	108 (7.8%)	125 (9.0%)	108 (7.8%)	111 (8.0%)	100 (7.2%)	80 (5.8%)	72 (5.2%)
Facilities nearby (toilets, car parks, refreshments)	312 (22.5%)	64 (4.6%)	82 (5.9%)	84 (6.1%)	89 (6.4%)	82 (5.9%)	86 (6.2%)	78 (5.6%)	80 (5.8%)	91 (6.6%)
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question										

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3.16   Question 15. Do you believe that the existing rights of way network is suitable and meets the needs of the majority of users?

These answers were relatively equal, with a slightly higher percentage, 44.0% (N=610) noting that existing rights of way were suitable, and 41.0% (N=568) noting that they did not believe that they were suitable.

Table013

	Number	Percentage
Yes	610	44.0
No	568	41.0
No response	208	15.0
Total	1386	100%

Graph010

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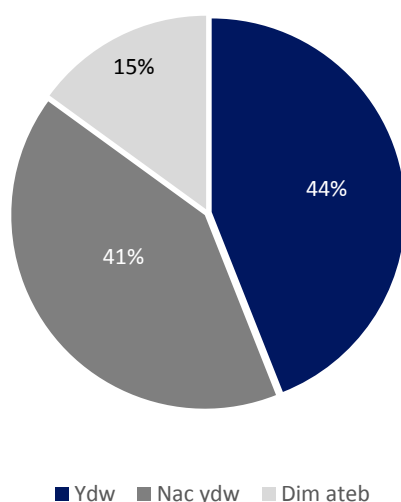
3.17 Question 16. What do you believe are the main steps that should be taken to improve the network?

Those who had answered 'No' in question 15 were asked to respond to this question.

A higher percentage agreed with the observations that more land should be designated as open land, and that legislation should be changed to make it easier for Local Authorities to create, abolish or divert rights of way.   A high percentage of the responders strongly disagreed with the statement that

there were too many paths, the majority of them are not used and the popular paths should be focussed on (16.6%, N=230).

Table014

	Strongly agree	**Good idea but not a high priority**	**No specific opinion**	**Disagree, not a priority**	**Strongly disagree**
There are too many paths, the majority of them are not used and the popular paths should be focussed on	39 (2.8%)	57 (4.1%)	80 (5.8%)	109 (7.9%)	230 (16.6%)
More cycling paths are needed	237 (17.1%)	115 (8.3%)	88 (6.3%)	37 (2.7%)	50 (3.6%)
More horse-riding paths are needed	204 (14.7%)	60 (4.3%)	158 (11.4%)	61 (4.4%)	52 (3.8%)
Need for more paths that area suitable for wheelchairs	174 (12.6%)	137 (9.9%)	174 (12.6%)	15 (1.1%)	15 (1.1%)
Cyclists and horses should be approved on the majority of footpaths	253 (18.3%)	75 (5.4%)	48 (3.5%)	73 (5.3%)	93 (6.7%)
The legislation should be changed to make it easier for Local Authorities to create, abolish or divert rights of way, e.g. move a path away from a farmyard or create a new section of the Coast Path.	260 (18.8%)	133 (9.6%)	64 (4.6%)	32 (2.3%)	51 (3.7%)

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More land should be designated as open land	315 (22.7%)	112 (8.1%)	65 (4.7%)	26 (1.9%)	23 (1.7%)
Tourists and tourism businesses should contribute towards maintaining rights of way	184 (13.3%)	152 (11.0%)	105 (7.6%)	41 (3.0%)	54 (3.9%)

3.18 Question 17. Are there specific areas or locations where more paths are needed or change the status of a path to allow for multi-use?

The majority of responders noted that there were no specific areas or locations where more paths were needed or for the status of paths to be changed to allow for their use (49.9%, N=692).

Table015

	Number	Percentage
Yes	459	33.1
No	692	49.9
No response	235	17.0
Total	**1386**	**100%**

Graph011

■ Oes ■ Nac oes ■ Dim ateb
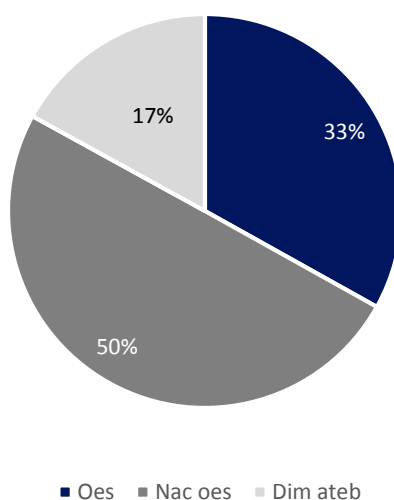
3.19 Question 18. Provide a brief description and explain the benefit to users.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 17 were asked to answer this question.

The type of emerging themes in the responses to the question was to have more multi-use paths and more horse-riding and cycling paths, with many responders giving specific examples of where new paths could be created or to change paths that currently exist.

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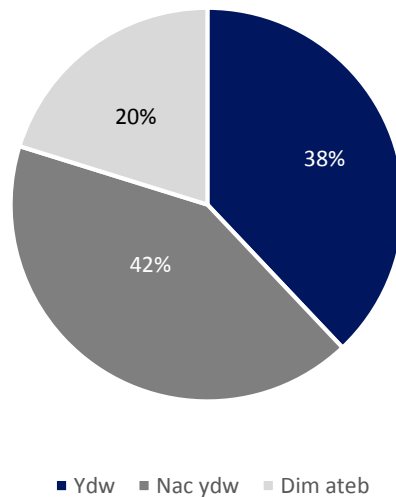
Your views of Rights of Way

3.20 Question 19. Do you know what the 'Definitive Map' is?

Note that the majority of responders do not know what the 'definitive map' is (41.8%, N=580).

Table016

	Number	Percentage
Yes	526	38.0
No	580	41.8
No response	280	20.2
Total	1386	100%

Graph012

- Ydw - Nac ydw - Dim ateb

3.21 Question 20. Have you ever looked at Gwynedd's Definitive Map?

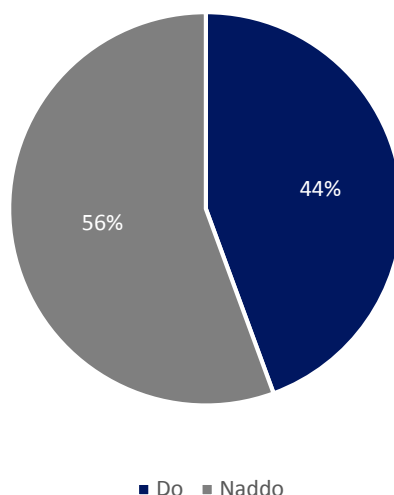Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 19 were asked to answer this question.

Of those who knew what the definitive map was, 44.4% (N=232) of them had looked at Gwynedd's definitive map.

Table017

	Number	Percentage
Yes	232	44.4
No	291	55.6

Total	523	100%

Graph013

■ Do	■ Naddo

3.22   Question 21. Did you get a satisfactory answer from looking at it?
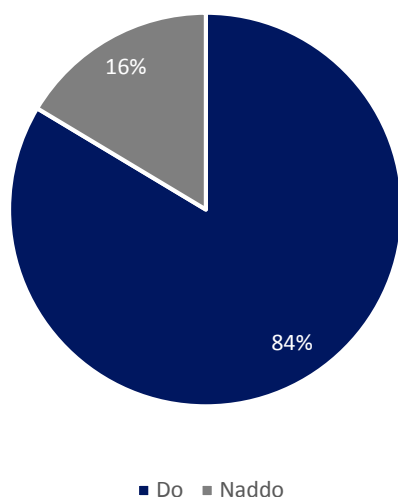
Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 20 were asked to answer this question.

Of those who knew of the definitive map, and had looked at Gwynedd's definitive map, 83.6% (N=189) had obtained a satisfactory answer from looking at it.

Table018

	Number	Percentage
Yes	189	83.6
No	37	16.4
Total	226	100%

Graph014

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Do ■ Naddo

3.23 Question 22. What was the main problem?

Those who had answered 'No' in question 21 were asked to answer this question.

Of those who had said that they had not obtained a satisfactory answer from it, the observations included points such as it was difficult to understand, not up-to-date, and that a larger scale map was needed.
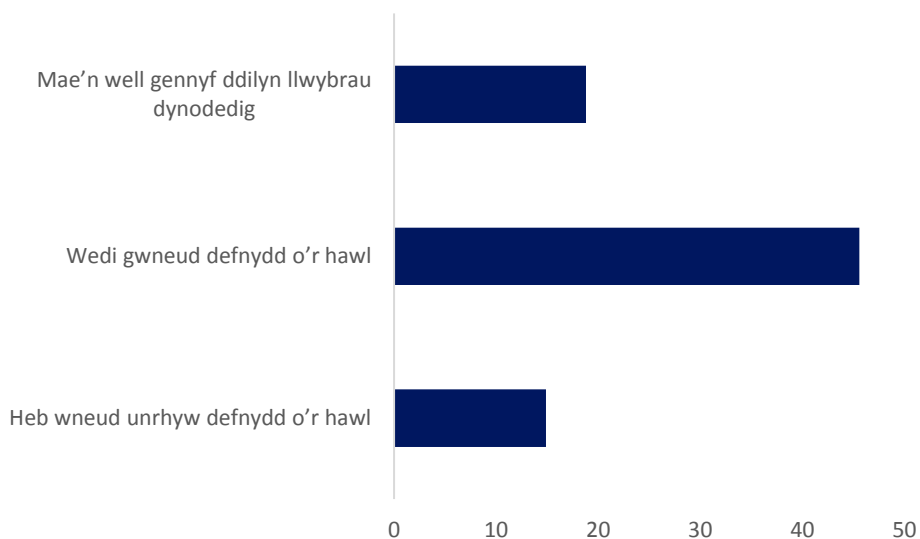
3.24 Question 23. Parts of Gwynedd have been designated as Open Access land (mainly mountain land and highlands). Since that designation in 2005, have you used it?

Note that almost half (45.6%, N=632) of the responders have made use of the open access land right. Almost one in every five responders (18.8%, N=260) have said that they prefer to follow designated paths, whilst 14.9% (N=206) of the responders have said that they have not made any use of the right.

Table019

	Number	Percentage
Have not made any use of the right	206	14.9
Have made use of the right	632	45.6
I prefer to follow designated paths	260	18.8
No response	288	20.8
Total	1386	100%

Graph015

26

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|	
Mae'n well gennyf ddilyn llwybrau dynodedig	
Wedi gwneud defnydd o'r hawl	
Heb wneud unrhyw defnydd o'r hawl	

(chart x-axis: 0 10 20 30 40 50)

3.25   Question 24. Should more land be designated as Open Access Land?

The majority of the responders (57.3%, N=794), note that more land should be designated as open access land.

Table020

	Number	Percentage
Yes	794	57.3
No	287	20.7
No response	305	22.0
Total	1386	100%

Graph016

■ Dylid   ■ Na ddylid   ■ Dim ateb
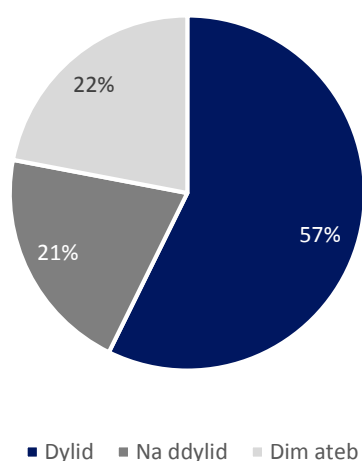
3.26 Question 25. Over recent years, Gwynedd Council and the National Park have faced cuts to their budgets for maintaining and improving rights of way. How would you like to see the two bodies prioritising resources over the coming years?

Note below that the most popular options for future priorities is prioritising work on the definitive map and applications to amend the map (21.8%, N=302) and maintaining every path on the definitive map as required and not prioritise work in accordance with the categorisation procedure (17.5%, N=243). The two least favoured options are maintaining paths within Category 1 only (24.9%, N=345) and maintaining paths within categories 1 and 2 only.

Table021

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8	Rank 9	Rank 10
Maintain paths within Category 1 only	29 (2.1%)	31 (2.2%)	32 (2.3%)	27 (1.9%)	40 (2.9%)	23 (1.7%)	40 (2.9%)	56 (4.0%)	95 (6.9%)	345 (24.9%)
Maintain paths within Categories 1 and 2 only	59 (4.3%)	60 (4.3%)	49 (3.5%)	48 (3.5%)	52 (3.8%)	55 (4.0%)	57 (4.1%)	96 (6.9%)	276 (19.9%)	27 (1.9%)
Maintain every path on the definitive map as needed and not prioritise work in accordance with the categorisation procedure	243 (17.5%)	162 (11.7%)	108 (7.8%)	77 (5.6%)	70 (5.1%)	59 (4.3%)	48 (3.5%)	56 (4.0%)	34 (2.5%)	22 (1.6%)
Resources should be prioritised for promoted paths and paths that attract visitors to the area,	78 (5.6%)	117 (8.4%)	100 (7.2%)	98 (7.1%)	76 (5.5%)	69 (5.0%)	95 (6.9%)	120 (8.7%)	37 (2.7%)	31 (2.2%)

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e.g. Coastal Paths, Snowdon paths, National Park's recreational paths, Lonydd Glas and local circular routes										
Make use of existing paths to establish more circular paths and long promoted journeys	119 (8.6%)	208 (15.0%)	128 (9.2%)	102 (7.4%)	89 (6.4%)	65 (4.7%)	61 (4.4%)	47 (3.4%)	24 (1.7%)	9 (0.6%)
Priority should be given to resolving conflict and problems by collaborating with landowners and users	25 (1.8%)	50 (3.6%)	94 (6.8%)	92 (6.6%)	95 (6.9%)	100 (7.2%)	122 (8.8%)	91 (6.6%)	68 (4.9%)	55 (4.0%)
More resources should be given to Community and Town councils or voluntary organisations to enable us to maintain the rights of way network	85 (6.1%)	115 (8.3%)	119 (8.6%)	124 (8.9%)	93 (6.7%)	95 (6.9%)	76 (5.5%)	62 (4.5%)	35 (2.5%)	30 (2.2%)

More emphasis should be placed on enforcement work to maintain and open rights of way which will lead to taking legal action against landowners	51 (3.7%)	82 (5.9%)	98 (7.1%)	96 (6.9%)	95 (6.9%)	91 (6.6%)	95 (6.9%)	71 (5.1%)	61 (4.4%)	76 (5.5%)
The definitive map and other Information about the network should be available on the Council's website	42 (3.0%)	104 (7.5%)	134 (9.7%)	123 (8.9%)	117 (8.4%)	108 (7.8%)	75 (5.4%)	63 (4.5%)	42 (3.0%)	24 (1.7%)
Prioritise the work on the definitive map and applications to amend the map (change the status of a path, register unrecorded paths)	302 (21.8%)	34 (2.5%)	43 (3.1%)	63 (4.5%)	76 (5.5%)	106 (7.6%)	82 (5.9%)	77 (5.6%)	58 (4.2%)	51 (3.7%)
The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question										

3.27   Question 26. To close, if you have any questions or additional observations about this questionnaire or about rights of way and and countryside access in Gwynedd, please note them below.

Here are some of the main themes emerging in response to the above question.

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A high number of the answers emphasised the importance of the paths. The responders referred to the use they and local residents made of the paths. A number of the responders were also eager to note that a number of tourists used the paths and visited the area specifically as a result. A number said that the maintenance of paths should be a priority for Gwynedd Council and that more, not less, should be done. A number of responders also praised a specific path or paths. A small number criticised a specific path or paths.

Another common response to this question was criticism of the questionnaire. A number had found it difficult to fill in, in particular the questions where there was a need to prioritise. Others believed that some questions were too closed and others said that a "don't know" option was needed for some of the questions.

A number of responders proposed that volunteers could help with the work of path maintenance. Some proposed that Gwynedd Council could provide training in this respect.

A number believed that more needed to be done to promote the Gwynedd paths network by means of pamphlets and the website. A small number of responders proposed that a complete open source Map of the network was required.

Cyclists proposed that they needed a better provision. Those who were not cyclists said that cycle paths were important so that bicycles were kept off the main road as this could be dangerous.

Those who were horse-riders said that they needed a better provision and paths were cars were not present.

Some responses stated that rights of way were essential in order to encourage more people to travel in more sustainable ways.

A few responses said that steps needed to be taken to prevent vehicles from destructing paths.

A number of responses were complaining that there was a lack of signage on the paths.

A few responses said that there needed to be a way to discover whether or not a path led to farmland, this was very important for dog owners.

Some responses said that they had contacted the Council regarding paths in the past and that they had not received a response. Other responses praised the service provided by the Council.

Some responders suggested lobbying Welsh Government to shoulder some of the financial responsibility for the maintenance of the network.

The report was prepared by

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