

To the Welsh Ministers,

Annual Report Submission: Neath Port Talbot (2024–2025)

In accordance with the duties set out under Sections 7(3) and 10(2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find Neath Port Talbot's Annual Report for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

1. The actions taken to promote active travel journeys

Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) – Auditing and Mapping

All existing and proposed routes included in Neath Port Talbot's Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) have been audited against the standards specified by the Welsh Government to assess their suitability for walking, cycling, or both.

An exercise was undertaken to update the relevant data on DataMapWales, ensuring that the assessment scores from audits conducted between 2021 and 2023 are accurately reflected.

In addition, the Council has completed the auditing and mapping of key publicly accessible facilities located along existing active travel routes. In line with Welsh Government requirements, a formal review of these maps is scheduled to commence in the next financial year.

Active Travel Consultations/Engagement Events

Neath to Cimla Active Travel Route Consultation: Between 23 September 2024 and 28 October 2024, Neath Port Talbot Council conducted a public consultation regarding a proposed active travel route between Neath and Cimla. The consultation process included:

- Emails to 261 stakeholders
- Online engagement via the Council's website and social media platforms
- Press release
- Posters placed in the local area
- A face-to-face public event held on 10 October 2024, from 2:00pm to 7:00pm, at Clive Roberts Hall (Cimla Scout Hut), SA11 3PF

A total of 224 responses were received during the consultation period.

The full [**Consultation Report**](#) is available on the Council's website.



Figure 1: Photo of the Neath to Cimla Face-to- Face Event Setup

National Play Day – Active Travel Engagement: To celebrate National Play Day, Neath Port Talbot Council hosted its annual Family Fun Day. The Active Travel Team participated by hosting an Active Travel Stall, where officers engaged with attendees to raise awareness of local walking and cycling routes. Visitors were invited to complete a questionnaire to share their perceptions of active travel in their area.

The event was well attended, and a total of 59 individuals completed the questionnaire, offering valuable insights into public views on walking and cycling and identifying areas for potential improvement.



Figure 2: Pictures of the Active Travel Stall at the NPT Family Fun Day.

Lock It- Mark It Event: Neath Port Talbot Council participated in the Lock It – Mark It event in collaboration with Transport for Wales and British Transport Police, held at Neath Railway Station. The initiative offered members of the public the opportunity to have their bicycles marked and registered for free on the National Cycle Database, a system designed to deter theft and assist in the recovery of stolen bikes.



Figure 3: Picture of the stall set up in Neath Train Station

Promotion in Schools

Neath Port Talbot's Road Safety Team undertook a number of activities to promote Active Travel including:

- Cyclecraft (On road cycle training): 14 schools, 291 pupils
- Primary Classroom Education: 50 schools 8859 pupils
- Cycle Awareness (Years 3-Year 6): 5 schools, 66 pupils
- Scooter Training (all ages): 5 schools, 145 pupils
- Balance Bike Training (Nursery & Reception): No training

- Foundation Stage Cycling (Year 1 & 2): 2 schools 25 pupils
- Road Safety Walks (all ages): 13 schools, 323 pupils
- Kerbcraft (Child Pedestrian Training Year 2): 30 schools 758 pupils
- The Big Pedal (which NPT supports Sustrans): Number unknown
- Crucial Crew: 53 schools, 1610 pupils

Neath Port Talbot Council Employee Cycle to Work

Scheme: Between September 2020 and October 2025 there have been 894 applications from Neath Port Talbot Staff amounting to a total of £1,234,374.00.

Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter: Neath Port Talbot Council became a signatory of The Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter in February 2023. Charter signatories are committed to 17 actions to be completed over 2 years. The actions include establishing a network of sustainable travel champions within each organisation, developing targeted communications campaigns for staff, offering, and promoting the cycle to work scheme, EV car adoption and promoting public transport discounts. By working together, the signatories aim to increase the proportion of journeys made to and from workplaces which are sustainable. We achieved Level 1 of the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter in April 2025 and are committed to building on our success by working towards Level 2 imminently.

Internal Liaison: There is ongoing liaison with colleagues from Planning, Highways, Road Safety, Streetcare (maintenance of routes) and Communications departments to encourage promotion generally and provision for active travel as part of new developments.

External Liaison: A cycling community group named NPT Links has been established in Neath Port Talbot to support and promote active travel. Meetings have taken place between the Active Travel Team at Neath Port Talbot Council and representatives from the group to discuss opportunities for enhancing active travel routes and strengthening community involvement.

In addition, Active Travel Officers have attended meetings of Neath Port Talbot's Local Access Forum, where they provided updates on ongoing active travel initiatives and gathered feedback to help improve accessibility across the region.

2. Actions Taken to Secure New Active Travel Routes and Related Facilities

Integration of Active Travel in New Developments

All new development schemes within Neath Port Talbot are required to incorporate infrastructure that meets Active Travel design standards. The Council's Active Travel Officers review large-scale planning applications and provide detailed feedback to ensure compliance. Where necessary, meetings are held with developers to discuss proposals and explore opportunities to embed active travel principles.

Each development is expected to deliver on-site and/or off-site active travel infrastructure, and, where appropriate, provide funding through Section 106 agreements. This approach ensures that new developments contribute meaningfully to the expansion and improvement of the active travel network across the county borough.

Core Allocation – Active Travel Fund (2024-25)

In the 2024/25 financial year, Neath Port Talbot Council was awarded £716,000 in core funding to support the development and promotion of active travel initiatives. This funding was provided to enable further design work, minor improvement works, land negotiations, and scheme promotion.

The following workstreams were approved by WG and Transport for Wales (TfW) as part of the core allocation scheme development works.

Neath to Cimla Active Travel Route: The current route between Neath and Cimla is unsuitable for active travel due to traffic volume, speed and steep gradients. Cyclists must share the road with vehicles, making the journey unsafe for many users.

A new route is being designed to Active Travel Act standards, improving access to Neath town centre and local schools including Ysgol Gymraeg Castell-nedd, Crynallt Primary, and Cefn Saeson Comprehensive. Design features include:

- Widening of footpaths to enable shared use, allowing people to walk and cycle along paths.
- Sections of quiet street cycling with off-road walking.
- Gate modifications at Gnoll Gatehouse.

- Creation of new sections of shared use path.
- Raised plateaus at some junctions to aid with crossing of residents with reduced mobility.

Initial funding (2022/23) supported feasibility and design. Additional funding in 2024/25 enabled detailed design, public consultation, discussions with CADW regarding listed structures, and legal processes to amend the prohibition of cycling order in The Gnoll.

Sandfields Active Travel Masterplan: Building on the feasibility work completed in 2022/23, the preliminary design and WelTAG Lite business case for the three highest-priority routes in 2023/24 have now progressed to detailed design. The routes when complete will see a primary walking and cycling connection circumventing around the Sandfields area from Seaway Parade, Handell Avenue, Purcell Avenue, Scarlett Avenue, Princess Margaret Way and Victoria Road. The horseshoe route will link the seafront to NCN4 & 887 while providing access to key destinations. The route will be complemented by public realm and green infrastructure enhancements.

Neath Town Centre Active Travel Masterplan: Building on the feasibility work that has been undertaken in 2023/24 the top three priority routes were taken forward to preliminary design and WelTAG Lite business case. These routes included Neath Abbey Road to Bridge Street, Cadoxton Road to Prince of Wales Drive and section of Gnoll Park Road.

NCN 4 – Margam Education Centre Taibach: Improvements at the Taibach Community Education Centre car park focused

on enhancing safety and accessibility for users of the NCN4 cycle route. The works included removing an access barrier, widening the path to meet active travel standards, and installing a fence with a new entrance gate. These changes provided a dedicated walking and cycling path, improved security for the education centre by enabling the car park to be locked overnight and aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism that has previously affected the site.

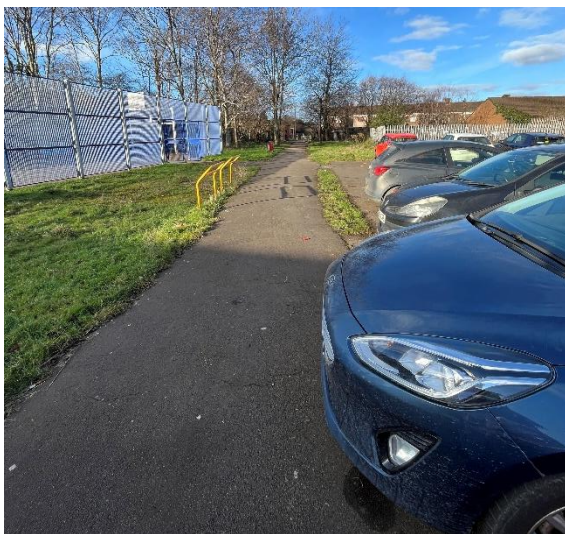


Figure 4: Before and after photos of the Margam Education Centre Car Park, Taibach

NCN 4 Lighting Improvements: On the off-road section of NCN4 near Pant Celydd, Port Talbot new lighting was installed to address safety concerns, particularly at a sharp 90-degree bend with poor visibility. The lighting makes the route safer and more accessible during nighttime, especially in winter.

Dropped Kerbs/Tactiles Programme Improvements: Seven future routes were prioritised for installation of dropped kerbs and tactile paving in 24/25. The locations can be viewed under 'length of improved route' section of this report. These routes

have been reaudited and will be recorded as existing routes on DataMapWales.



Figure 5: Example of a before and after photo of a new dropped kerb/tactiles on Theodore Road, Port Talbot

Taibach to Goytre Links: A proposal is underway to improve walking and cycling facilities in the Taibach area of Port Talbot, linking the Goytre end of the Bryn to Goytre route with existing active travel infrastructure in Port Talbot. A feasibility study was conducted during 2023–2024. This study identified a preferred route, which has been progressed to preliminary design in 2024-2025. Measures proposed at this stage include:

- Improvements to pedestrian facilities
- On road cycling – quiet street (e.g. Wildbrook estate)
- Shared use paths adjacent to carriageway.
- Shared use paths away from the carriageway.
- Improved crossing facilities at junctions.
- Formal crossing point on A48.

Link Between A48 and NCN47: A proposal was developed to explore the feasibility of creating a link between the A48 and NCN47 along the Neath Canal. Currently, there is a missing connection between the shared-use path on the northern side of Briton Ferry Bridge (FR-PT-SU111) and NCN47. The future route (FR-NEA-SU031) was audited in February 2022 and was found unsuitable for both walking and cycling due to issues such as poor surfacing, limited signage, and challenging gradients.

Monitoring: To support evidence-based planning and evaluation, Neath Port Talbot Council has implemented a programme of traffic and active travel monitoring. Data is collected on selected routes to record vehicle speed and volume, as well as pedestrian and cyclist counts. This monitoring helps establish baseline data and provides ongoing evidence, collected for up to three years post-construction, to demonstrate the benefits of active travel infrastructure improvements.

To enhance future monitoring capabilities, additional cameras have been purchased, enabling more comprehensive and consistent data collection across the active travel network.



Figure 6: Radar box capturing walking and cycling data on NCN43

ATNM Development: See section on ‘actions taken to promote active travel journeys’ for further details.

Related Facilities: See section on ‘New and improved active travel facilities’ for further details.

3. Costs incurred for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year

In the 2024-2025 financial year, Neath Port Talbot Council was awarded £716,000 in core funding to support the development and enhancement of active travel infrastructure. This funding was allocated to:

- Design work for future active travel routes
- Minor improvement works to existing infrastructure
- Land negotiations to facilitate future route delivery
- Promotion of active travel schemes across the region

While no new routes were constructed during this period, the investment focused on ensuring that future and existing routes meet the standards outlined in the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance, laying the groundwork for long-term improvements in walking and cycling accessibility.

4. Indicative spending for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities funded or part funded by third parties.

Throughout the 2024-2025 financial year, Neath Port Talbot Council's Active Travel Officers reviewed and commented on multiple planning applications to ensure that proposed developments incorporated adequate active travel infrastructure. This process helps embed walking and cycling considerations into the planning system and supports long-term network development.

While the total financial contribution from developers through these applications is currently unknown, the Council continues to advocate for the inclusion of on-site and off-site active travel improvements, sometimes supported through Section 106 agreements.

5. Length of New Routes for Walking, Cycling, and Shared Use

During the 2024–2025 financial year, no new active travel routes were constructed in Neath Port Talbot. Instead, all allocated funding was directed towards:

- Design and development work for future active travel routes
- Improvements to existing infrastructure
- Ensuring compliance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Design Guidance

These preparatory and enhancement activities are essential to ensure that future routes meet the required standards and deliver long-term benefits for walking and cycling across the region.

6. Length of Improved Routes for Walking, Cycling, and Shared Use

The improvements to dropped kerbs/tactiles and Taibach Education Centre has created the following lengths of new existing walking routes:

Future Route (to become an existing route)	Location	Length(m)
FR-SKW-W005	Bosworth Road, Skewen	84
FR-PT-SU014	Dyffryn Road, Taibach to Ty Fry Road, Margam via Margam Road (A48)	1576
FR-SKW-SU014	Parc Wern, Skewen	573
FR-PT-SU011	Theodore Road, Port Talbot	734
FR-PT-W0010	Commercial Road	1870
FR-NEA-SU049	Beechwood Avenue, Neath	640
FR-PT-P033	Broad Street to Talbot Road (A48) Port Talbot	136
NPT-PT-SU121	Taibach Education Centre	125
	Total	5,738 metres

7. New and Improved Active Travel Facilities

Barriers

Funding was used to remove and replace access control measures to ensure that barriers complied with the Active Travel Act Guidance. This work has continued the programme of works undertaken in previous years to replace non-compliant barriers and make our routes more accessible. In 2024/2025 non-compliant barriers were replaced in locations in Neath Town Centre to enable use by individuals of all abilities. Since 2019 we have removed/replaced a total of 59 access barriers in the county borough, making routes more accessible for everyone choosing to walk, wheel or cycle along them.

Signage

In 2023/24, NPT received correspondence about a large road sign near Briton Ferry roundabout, where one post obstructed the path, forcing adapted bike users onto the carriageway. Funding has been used to relocate the sign behind the path to keep it clear. Work began in 2024/25 with completion planned for 2025/26.

8. Additional Information (optional)

NA.

If you need this information in a different format or language, please e-mail activetravel@npt.gov.uk