



# Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

2013 anaw 7

An Act of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision for the mapping of active travel routes and related facilities and for and in connection with integrated network maps; for securing that there are new and improved active travel routes and related facilities; for requiring the Welsh Ministers and local authorities to take reasonable steps to enhance the provision made for, and to have regard to the needs of, walkers and cyclists; for requiring functions under the Act to be exercised so as to promote active travel journeys and secure new and improved active travel routes and related facilities; and for connected purposes. [4 November 2013]

**Having been passed by the National Assembly for Wales and having received the assent of Her Majesty, it is enacted as follows:**

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

C1 Act applied (with modifications) (28.2.2022) by [The Corporate Joint Committees \(Transport Functions\) \(Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/188\)](#), regs. 1(2), 3, [Sch. para. 4](#)

## *Introduction*

### **1 Overview**

This Act makes provision—

- (a) for approved maps of existing active travel routes and related facilities in a local authority's area,
- (b) for approved integrated network maps of the new and improved active travel routes and related facilities needed to create integrated networks of active travel routes and related facilities in a local authority's area,
- (c) requiring local authorities to have regard to integrated network maps in preparing transport policies and to secure that there are new and improved active travel routes and related facilities,

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (d) requiring the Welsh Ministers to report on active travel in Wales,
- (e) requiring the Welsh Ministers and local authorities, in the performance of functions under the Highways Act 1980, to take reasonable steps to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists and to have regard to the needs of walkers and cyclists in the exercise of certain other functions, and
- (f) requiring the Welsh Ministers and local authorities to exercise their functions under the Act so as to promote active travel journeys and secure new and improved active travel routes and related facilities.

## 2 Meaning of “active travel route” and “related facilities” etc.

- (1) For the purposes of this Act a route in a local authority's area is an active travel route if—
  - (a) the route is situated in a designated locality in the area, and
  - (b) the local authority considers that it is appropriate for it to be regarded as an active travel route.
- (2) In this section “route” means a highway, or any other route to which the public has access, (including a crossing of a highway or any such route) and which may lawfully be used by, or by any description of, walkers and cyclists.
- (3) In this Act “walkers and cyclists” means—
  - (a) people who walk,
  - (b) people who use pedal cycles, other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1988, and
  - (c) disabled people not within paragraph (a) or (b) who use motorised wheelchairs, mobility scooters or other aids to mobility.
- (4) In this Act “designated”, in relation to a locality, means specified, or of a description specified, in a direction given by the Welsh Ministers.
- (5) The Welsh Ministers may, in particular, specify a locality, or description of locality, by reference to—
  - (a) density of population,
  - (b) size,
  - (c) proximity to densely-populated localities above a particular size,
  - (d) position between such localities,
  - (e) proximity to community services and facilities, or
  - (f) potential for other reasons to be a locality, or description of locality, in which more travel is undertaken by walkers and cyclists by active travel journeys.
- (6) In considering whether it is appropriate for a route to be regarded as an active travel route, a local authority must take into account—
  - (a) whether the route facilitates the making by, or by any description of, walkers and cyclists of active travel journeys, and
  - (b) whether the location, nature and condition of the route make it suitable for safe use by, or by any description of, walkers and cyclists for the making of such journeys,
 and must have regard to guidance given by the Welsh Ministers.

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- (7) In this Act “active travel journey” means a journey made to or from a workplace or educational establishment or in order to access health, leisure or other services or facilities.
- (8) For the purposes of this Act “related facilities”, in relation to an active travel route, means—
- (a) facilities for shelter, resting or storage,
  - (b) toilets or washing facilities,
  - (c) signage, or
  - (d) other facilities,
- which are available for use by, or by any description of, walkers and cyclists using the active travel route.
- (9) In determining whether anything constitutes related facilities for the purposes of this Act a local authority must have regard to guidance given by the Welsh Ministers.

### *Maps*

## **3 Existing routes maps**

- (1) Each local authority must—
- (a) prepare an existing routes map, and
  - (b) submit it to the Welsh Ministers for approval.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, “existing routes map”, in relation to a local authority, means a map showing the active travel routes and related facilities in the local authority's area.
- (3) In preparing its existing routes map a local authority must consult—
- (a) all persons who have requested the local authority that they be consulted about its existing routes map, and
  - (b) any such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (4) In preparing its existing routes map a local authority must have regard to guidance given by the Welsh Ministers as to—
- (a) the consultation and other steps to be taken in preparing it,
  - (b) the matters to be shown on it, and
  - (c) its form.
- (5) A local authority must submit its existing routes map to the Welsh Ministers for approval—
- (a) before the end of the period of 1 year beginning with the day on which this section comes into force, or
  - (b) if the Welsh Ministers by direction given to the local authority specify a date after the end of that period as the date by which it must be submitted to them, no later than that date.
- (6) When submitting an existing routes map to the Welsh Ministers under this section a local authority must also submit to them—

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- (a) a statement of the extent (if any) to which any of the active travel routes shown on it do not conform to standards specified in guidance given under section 2(6), and
  - (b) an explanation of why the local authority has nevertheless decided that it is appropriate for them to be regarded as active travel routes.
- (7) When submitting an existing routes map to the Welsh Ministers under this section on any occasion other than the first, a local authority must also submit to them a report specifying how the level of use of active travel routes and related facilities in the local authority's area has changed since the previous occasion on which an existing routes map was submitted to the Welsh Ministers under this section by the local authority.
- (8) If the Welsh Ministers decide not to approve an existing routes map submitted to them by a local authority under this section, they may by direction given to the local authority require the local authority—
- (a) to revise (or further revise) it, and
  - (b) to submit it to them for approval no later than the date specified in the direction.
- (9) In determining whether to approve an existing routes map submitted to them by a local authority under this section the Welsh Ministers must—
- (a) consider whether the local authority has complied with subsections (3) and (4) in preparing it, and
  - (b) consider the content of the statement and explanation submitted under subsection (6).
- (10) Once an existing routes map prepared by a local authority has been approved by the Welsh Ministers, the local authority—
- (a) must keep it under review,
  - (b) may revise it, and
  - (c) must submit it to the Welsh Ministers for approval on each occasion on which the local authority's integrated network map is submitted for approval under section 4.
- (11) The Welsh Ministers may by direction given to a local authority specify an occasion different from that specified in subsection (10)(c) as the occasion on which the local authority must submit an existing routes map to the Welsh Ministers for approval.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 3 in force at 25.9.2014 by S.I. 2014/2589, art. 2

#### **4 Integrated network maps**

- (1) Each local authority must—
- (a) prepare an integrated network map, and
  - (b) submit it to the Welsh Ministers for approval.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, “integrated network map”, in relation to a local authority, means a map showing—
- (a) the new active travel routes and related facilities, and
  - (b) the improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities,

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- that the local authority considers are needed to develop or enhance an integrated network of active travel routes and related facilities in designated localities in its area.
- (3) In preparing its integrated network map a local authority must consult—
    - (a) all persons who have requested the local authority that they be consulted about its integrated network map, and
    - (b) any such other persons as it considers appropriate.
  - (4) In preparing its integrated network map a local authority must have regard to the desirability of—
    - (a) promoting active travel journeys, and
    - (b) securing new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements in existing active travel routes and related facilities.
  - (5) In preparing its integrated network map a local authority must have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers as to—
    - (a) the consultation and other steps to be taken in preparing it,
    - (b) the period to which it is to relate,
    - (c) the matters to be shown on it, and
    - (d) its form.
  - (6) A local authority must submit its integrated network map to the Welsh Ministers for approval—
    - (a) before the end of the period of 3 years beginning with the day on which this section comes into force, or
    - (b) if the Welsh Ministers by direction given to the local authority specify a date after the end of that period as the date by which it must be submitted to them, no later than that date.
  - (7) If the Welsh Ministers decide not to approve an integrated network map submitted to them by a local authority under this section, they may by direction given to the local authority require the local authority—
    - (a) to revise (or further revise) it, and
    - (b) to submit it to them for approval no later than the date specified in the direction.
  - (8) In determining whether to approve an integrated network map submitted to them by a local authority under this section the Welsh Ministers must consider whether the local authority has complied with subsections (3) and (5) in preparing it.
  - (9) Once an integrated network map prepared by a local authority has been approved by the Welsh Ministers, the local authority—
    - (a) must keep it under review,
    - (b) may revise it, and
    - (c) must submit it to the Welsh Ministers for approval before the end of each period of 3 years beginning with the day on which it was last approved by them.
  - (10) The Welsh Ministers may by direction given to a local authority specify a period different from that in subsection (9)(c) as the period before the end of which the local authority must submit an integrated network map to the Welsh Ministers for approval.