

Cycle Usage in SW Wales

I, having been involved in the development of the National Cycle Network (NCN) in SW Wales, have collated usage records which have been made available to me by the relevant Local Authorities. The cycle count data are presented here.

They are summarised in the table opposite. There were also some pedestrian counts and a predicted breakdown between touring and other cyclists for some of the routes which I can provide on request. (davidwheelsjudd@gmail.com)

The numbers are the recorded number of cyclists passing a particular point in the year indicated. They have been converted to annual from either average daily or average weekly flows. There was no information on the seasonal variation.

20 years ago the proportion of trips by bike in Wales was less than 2%. There was then a target of doubling this in ten years with predictions of an increase of over 10% or even 15%. The continental experience of 25% of trips by bike was though a bit over the top.

The figures are encouraging as they indicate that in all except one case (where there was a reduction) there has been an increase of over 10% with more than a doubling in a number of them.

However the proportion of trips made by cycle is unlikely to have changed much because of the increase in trips made by car over the same period as witnessed by traffic congestion. This can only be addressed by much greater priority and provision of cycle facilities and restriction of car use, particularly in urban areas, as on the continent.

David Judd (Wheelrights President)
May 2018

Route	Cyclists/year (Year)		% incr.	Years
	Pembrokeshire			
Freeman's Way	8,000 ('02)	20,000 ('17)	150	15
Brunel	7,000 ('01)	25,000 ('14)	257	13
Pembroke Dock	18,000 ('02)	14,000 ('17)	-22	15
Wiseman's Bridge	10,000 ('02)	12,000 ('16)	20	14
Cardi Bach Cardigan	14,000 ('02)	19,000 ('16)	35	14

Carmarthenshire NCR 4

Kidwelly Park	-	4,387 ('17)	-	-
Canal Pinged end	-	17,633 ('17)	-	-
A484 Carmarthen	-	1,549 ('17)	-	-
Pembrey Canal	-	26,089 ('17)	-	-
Carmarthen spillway	-	4,022 ('17)	-	-
Pwll Pavillion MCP	-	104,818 ('17)	-	-
A4138 West	-	3,556 ('17)		
A4138 East	-	6,083 ('17)		
Pontamman (AVC*)	-	8,660 ('17)	-	-
Garnant (AVC*)	-	17,257 ('17)	-	-
Glanamman (AVC*)	-	12,500 ('17)	-	-

Swansea

Pont-y-cob (NCR 4)	9,000('06)	144,000('15)	**	9
Gowerton (NCR 4)	38,000('07)	69,000('15)	82	8
Clyne Valley (NCR 4)	68,000('06)	99,000('17)	46	11
Blackpill Lido	156,000('06)	214,000('17)	37	11
Civic Centre (NCR 4)	120,000('06)	243,000('17)	102	11
Trafalgar Br. (NCR 4)	37,000('11)	64,000('16)	73	5
Fabian Way (NCR 4)	5,000('06)	104,000('16)	***	10
Sail Bridge (NCR 43)	27,000('06)	80,000('14)	196	8
Tawe Br.s (NCR 43)	47,000('06)	67,000('17)	42	11
Tir Canol (NCR 43)	15,000('06)	31,000('17)	106	11
Garth Rd (NCR 43)	11,000('11)	26,000('17)	136	6
North Gower Trail	8,000('06)	9,000('17)	12	11

* AVC = Amman Valley Cycleway.

** 1500: Needs checking.

*** 1980: Bay Campus effect.