

## Brynna Woods and Llanharan Marsh Reserve

Whilst managing the reserve the combination of practical conservation and events has improved the wildlife and biodiversity of the reserve, and engaged with a wide range of the local community. We would particularly like to thank our group of dedicated volunteers who turn up rain or shine to help deliver our work. We would also like to say a big thank you to Roger Turner for leading the support of the Community Council. Roger has always been a key person for the Trust helping to steer our work and develop the Reserve as an important community and wildlife asset.

During the lockdown restriction throughout 2020 the nature reserve had a huge increase in local footfall and became an important area for local residents to get their dally exercise and enjoy being outdoors. Unlike other nature reserves managed by the Trust, Brynna saw very few instances of excessive rubbish and fly tipping, which is a clear indication how much the space is valued by the local community, and the great sense of local 'ownership'.

In these difficult times, having the opportunity to spend time in a local Jewel like the Brynna Reserve , becomes even more important and the fact that the local community support our work and share our vision for the site makes all the difference.

This new increased use did highlight the need to improve pathway access points, signage and interpretation such as notice boards, plus we will be looking to engage with more local people over the following 12 months, hoping to involve them in a variety of events on the reserve.

## Volunteers

Local volunteers are invaluable in the management of the reserve, which is a real resource to the community, with volunteers of all ages and abilities helping in some way to manage the site. This was demonstrated during Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, when the dedicated team worked individually, and continued to keep a watchful eye on the reserve, helping keep the area safe for visiting the local general public.

We managed to restart work parties again in the autumn as the restrictions were eased and WTSWW staff returned from furlough, but there is still a considerable amount of work that we had planned to do and we now need to catch up on. This is included in the programme of work for next year.

## Bryнна Reserve work 2021-22 and future activities

The plans include work carried forward from last year, that had to be put on hold, including and any subsequent underspend, detailed in **bold**

- **Carrying out repairs and upgrades to the path network, including tackling some of the drainage and erosion issues identified by the Community Council.**
- **Install some new picnic tables and seating.**
- **Develop the skills of the volunteers through training and the purchase of new equipment and corporate clothing.**
- **Install a new notice and new signage close to the school, or at the crossroads.**
- Build on previous year's management actions, working on a variety of key habitats for the dormice and reptiles, with the aim to further improve and expand the areas. For example using coppice management.
- Run a programme public engagement events, scheduling to be focused later in the year when hopefully Covid restrictions are eased.
- Continue to manage the ash trees along key access routes to deal with the increasing problem of ash die-back.
- Implement a full programme of monitoring (with the help of the volunteers) for dormice, bats and reptiles.
- Using the information collected above to update and develop the management plan

### Examples of the work planned 2021



Full length of the path to be scraped and stone added to address the drainage issues



New picnic table and seating