

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2030

5. To host a range of organised activities on our sites, including research and monitoring, conservation work, nature experience, cultural and educational activities; to hold programmes for school children, youths and adults from specific groups, including those who do not normally connect with nature.

5.1. Educational and nature experience programmes offered to Primary Schools in local area of project site: developed and delivered in partnership with schools. To include sessions in school and on site.

Current status:

3 groups per year start on the 3 year Primary Schools programme, so working with 9 school groups concurrently. Transport to site is provided by the project. All funded by SMS.

Year 1:

Autumn: 1 day in school, followed by 1 day on site – learning about habitats, the site, the project, collecting acorns, plus activities. And 1 more day in school to sow the acorns and learn about the life-cycle of an oak tree, famous oak trees and activities to do with trees.

Spring: 1 day on site followed by 3 days in schools – creative art project.

Year 2:

Autumn: 1 day on site – bushcraft, especially fire lighting.

Year 3:

Plant the oak trees they have grown from seed.

Nature Arts Drop: in response to the inability to welcome groups to site during the pandemic, we worked in partnership with Arts Drop to create nature and art activities (with a focus on well-being) presented on a set of postcards and provided free with all materials required in a cotton bag. Provided to 600 children in three age groups.

Plans:

To continue the Primary schools programme in its current format.

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5.2. *Wild camps with nature experience programmes of several days on site offered to young people of secondary school age: ancestral skills, nature observation, mindfulness and other activities. Delivered by charity in partnership with specialist activity providers. Connections made with Secondary Schools and other organisations working with youths.*

Current status:

In 2019 2 camps were held. 6 camps were scheduled for 2020 but all were cancelled due to the pandemic. We have 6 camps planned for 2021.

Lead provider for these camps is Jane Robertson, supported by an assistant with similar experience of leading wild camps and the Education Specialist from Coetir Anian. Transport to site is provided by project. Full programme of activities available on request.

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Plans:

Continue holding 6 youth camps per year in current format.

Additional programme open to alumni of the youth camps, for 16 to 18 year olds - delving deeper into wild living, bushcraft, ancestral skills, nature connection, mindfulness, etc. Aimed at groups of 15 people with a proposed 10 days of camp per year for 3 years during school holidays and weekends. There will be one ongoing group at a time. Project providing transport costs to ensure inclusivity.

5.3. *Programmes will be developed with partners for adults from specific groups who would derive particular benefit from our service: for example, people recovering from addiction, refugees, young carers, people from deprived areas. Plus local community events.*

Current status:

Annual Open Day held in 2018 and 2019.

Some limited use of site by other providers.

Volunteer Work Days – Already holding 11 per year at Bwlch Corog, generally last Saturday of the month. Carrying out land-based tasks. To date these have included: fence removal, tree planting, bracken slashing, timber framing and other construction tasks on compost loo and shed.

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Plans:

Volunteer Work Days – To be continued in current format. Future activities will include construction of simple roundwood bridge, more tree planting, more bracken slashing. Networking will increase public knowledge of these days, plus referrals from partner organisations. They provide a good opportunity for people struggling with a variety of mental health issues to get outdoors and take part in practical activities.

Developing our 'Adult Programmes' for specific groups who would benefit from nature connection. The programmes will all follow a similar format, with activities such as craft, bushcraft, art, conservation tasks on offer, and plenty of time for connecting around a camp fire. Single days out plus 5 day camps are proposed. We are currently developing projects with the following groups:

Midlands based groups working with asylum seekers –

Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary

Church of St Chad and St Mark in Wolverhampton

Hope Projects in Birmingham

Penparcau Community Forum – nature experiences for people from deprived area.

Credu – Supports adult and young carers in Powys.

Camad – Hub for volunteering in Machynlleth area, linked to network of local organisations.

Rekindle – Small Steps Project, works with young people suffering from mental health.

Changes UK – Community Interest Company working with people with addiction.

Kaleidoscope – Addiction recovery charity.

Wild Living Camps – open to general public, to be run commercially.

Local community and family events:

Continue to hold an open day annually.

Other themed celebration days, 5 per year from this list:

International Dawn Chorus Day

International Day for Biological Diversity

World Environment Day

International Bog Day

World Honey Bee Day

World Habitat Day

World Wilderness Day

National Tree Week