

Twyn y Cryn

Well-being goal



Twyn y Cryn is a woodland forming part of the Glascoed Commons, in the ownership of Llanbadoc Community Council, and is approximately 160,000 square meters of ancient, semi-natural bluebell woodland.

Llanbadoc Community Council represents a number of communities in Monmouthshire and aim to deliver services that meet local needs, by operating at a grass roots level and enabling local people to improve their communities.

Twyn y Cryn is of particular importance to the local residents of Llanbadoc, viewed as a key asset and described as more than a walking route, but also “the lungs of the village”. The Glascoed Woodland Care group and the Pathcare Group joined in partnership with the Community Council to raise the profile of this previously neglected woodland and work towards its restoration and ongoing protection.

The Glascoed Woodland Care group is a volunteer-led group, formed from a desire to safeguard the woodlands and see the protection of the bluebells and regeneration of the natural tree species. The Pathcare

Ways of working



group is a council-led, volunteer group with the aim of clearing vegetation from public footpaths and mending or replacing infrastructure, such as stiles and wayfinding markers.

As part of our work under the Community Woodlands scheme of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we were able to partner with the Llanbadoc groups to support vital work for the protection of this important ecological site.

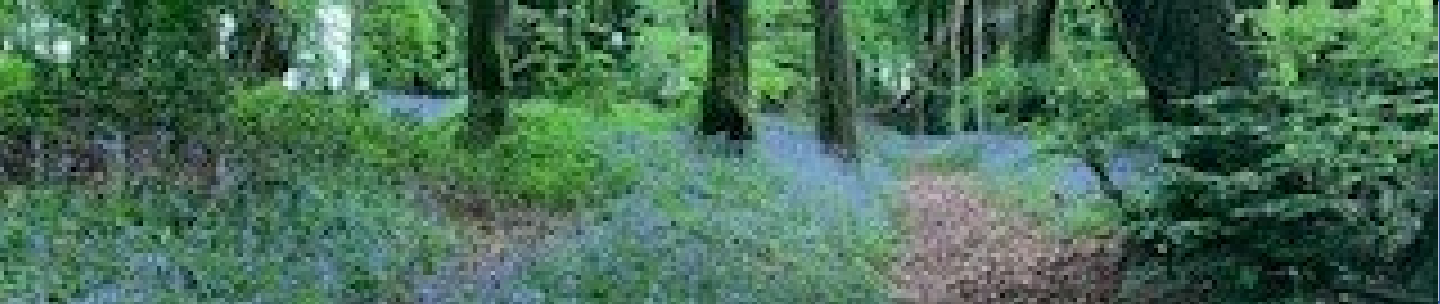
A tree survey undertaken in 2022 indicated a number of risks to the woodland, including: a monoculture of beech and phytophthora (bleeding canker); poor regeneration and browsing animals. In response to this, Through the above scheme. TfW was able to provide the funding necessary to action these risks and develop a maintenance programme to ensure the continuation of care.

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Funds made available by Transport for Wales has allowed the voluntary Pathcare Group to make significant improvements

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Key words: Community Woodlands, grant funded projects, National Lottery Heritage Fund, woodland management and restoration, accessible green space, community engagement, future generations, partnerships, sustainable impact



A large portion of the works consisted of the clearance of bracken and bramble, which had taken over much of the forest floor, preventing the growth of other species and obscuring the pathways. This clearance made substantial improvements to the natural regeneration of the woodland, seeing the re-emergence of the bluebells for which Glascoed takes its name, and the self-seeding of trees. The route is much loved by a variety of users, including horse riders, but had suffered widespread erosion due to unclear pathways. By removing the overgrown vegetation and using it to create a natural edging to the path, the groups were able to both improve the user experience and protect the delicate bluebells and surrounding forest.

To combat the risks posed to the woodland due to the monoculture of aging beech trees, the Woodland group undertook ground preparations across the site to allow for the planting of a mix of hazel, silver birch, hawthorn, English oak and blackthorn. This native mix of species will ensure the improvement of the overall health of the woodland, being less susceptible to species-specific endemic diseases, and by providing

a wider variety of habitats and food sources for a more diverse range of animals.

The final phase of the project saw a significant improvement to the accessibility of the woodland. The Pathcare Group were able to install a new footbridge at the entrance of the woodland, where there was previously a stepping-stone crossing over an area susceptible to heavy flooding and erosion.



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Paths have been cleared and new trees planted to enhance the woodland and encourage walkers to use the paths and explore the area where they live.

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