

Plas Glyn-y-Weddw

Well-being goal



Plas Glyn-y-Weddw is one of Wales' oldest art galleries, having been built in 1857, and is surrounded by the ancient woodlands of Willan, situated on the Llyn Peninsula and forming part of the Wales Coastal Path.

Plas Glyn-y-Weddw was built as a gothic-style, private residence and was sold multiple times through the years for a number of purposes, before being restored and re-opened as an art gallery in 1979. A charitable trust was formed in the mid-1990's to purchase the building and take over the running of the gallery. Today, Plas Glyn-y-Weddw is considered much more than an art gallery, it is an arts and heritage centre of national importance.

The Winllan woodland originally formed part of the gardens but was left out of subsequent sales. However, the Trust was able to purchase back the woodland in 2008 and restore the site to completion. Willan has been designated as an ancient woodland but much of the original trees were replaced with larch, and with laurel and rhododendron planted throughout. These invasive species took over the site, outcompeting many of the native plants that would have helped the local wildlife thrive.

Ways of working



The Trust undertook a programme of works to clear back the laurel and rhododendron to improve the ecological health of the woodland and make way for the restoration of its ancient characteristics.

As part of our works on the Community Woodlands scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we were able to support the Trust in continuing their improvement of the woodlands.

The paths were recently joined to the Wales Coastal Path, providing a more accessible and safer route through the gallery grounds and around the headland. The funding was used to reinstate handrails along 1km of pathways in the steeper areas and chippings laid to stabilise the surfaces. Dead, diseased or fallen trees were cleared back from the site to ensure greater levels of safety and enable the regeneration of the woodland with the planting of a mix of native species, including: rowan, oak, birch, hawthorn, beech, elm and chestnut.

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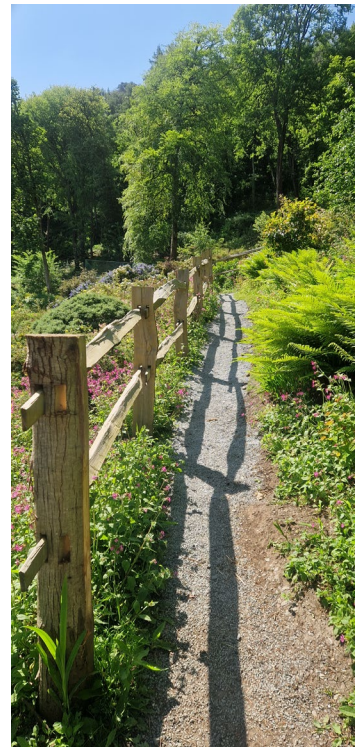
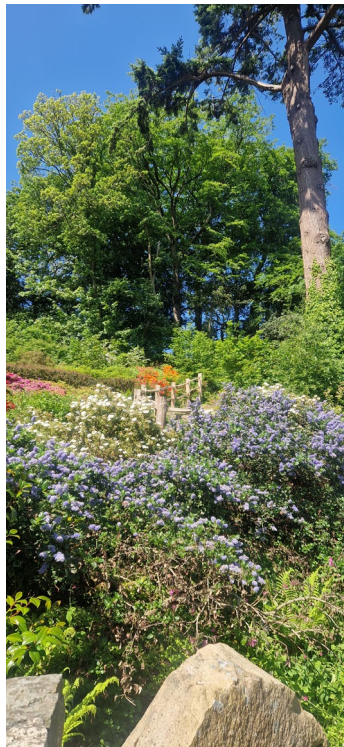
We are very grateful for the HLF funding and support from TfW. The woodland is a valuable resource and this grant enabled us to implement work that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise

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Key words: Community Woodlands, grant funded projects, National Lottery Heritage Fund, woodland management and restoration, accessible green space, Welsh culture, arts and heritage, Wales coastal path, community engagement, future generations, partnerships, sustainable impact



The gallery attracts over 140,000 visitors per year and is also a popular attraction to local people due to the newly completed café. The funding provided not only an opportunity for enhancement works to the grounds, but opportunities for volunteering and engagement. The community event held to showcase the project outcomes was attended by a number of local people who expressed their gratitude for the investment and its wider positive impact on other businesses in the area.



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Any investment in nature is beneficial to everyone, and this could also help support local businesses by connectivity and recreational walking.

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