

**Magor with Undy
Community Council,
and
Gwent Wildlife Trust's
Magor Marsh
Common-y-coed
Plantation
Development Project**



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Common-y-coed Plantation Development Project

1 Project Idea

To re-develop a section of neglected land at Common-y-coed Undy, which is a dedicated open space (Commons Act 1899), into a mixed habitat that will inject vibrancy into a corner of the community and complement the area's rich agricultural and farming past. It will attract more walkers and cyclists to the area, and inspire people to explore, discover and play.

It will be a space that will be set aside for people of all ages to learn more about their local environment and its biodiversity in a beautiful atmosphere.

2 Project Partners

The Community Council's Parks & Open Spaces Committee will be working in partnership with the Gwent Wildlife Trust's flagship reserve at Magor Marsh to manage the project, playing a key role in the future development of the site. This is an opportunity to involve a local children's group from the community in the design, build and maintenance of the site and habitats.

The Gwent Wildlife Trust's 'Wildlife Warriors Youth Group' (*which caters for children aged 10 to 16 years of age, and which aims to encourage children to take pride in their natural surroundings, learn how to care for the environment and the things in it, and teach children new countryside skills*) have been invited to design and build their own habitat using native plants and trees, user friendly pathways and sculptures/cairns in order to benefit nature as a whole and enhance local biodiversity.

3 Why the Project is needed

The site has been neglected over the years. It is in three distinct areas. One section, originally a meadow, was partially re-developed in 2005 by clearing and planting new native trees, but the work was never completed. The second section was originally ancient woodland, but this is currently overgrown and uninviting – It is peppered with Sycamore Trees which are invasive and diseased, with the canopy killing off any native growth beneath. The third section again originally a meadow has been invaded by bracken and briars, as well as Sycamore seedlings.

4 Project Details

Management: Magor with Undy Community Council's Parks and Open Spaces Working Group, together with the Gwent Wildlife Trust's Magor Marsh Officers will manage the project taking into consideration the ideas, thoughts and plans of the "Wildlife Warriors" who will play a key role in the future development of the site.

Survey: The "Wildlife Warriors" will undertake their own survey of flora, fauna and trees across the site prior to the commencement of the project. A professional Bat Survey has already been completed.

Tree Removal: The invasive, unsafe and diseased trees will be removed by a qualified tree specialist. Those identified for removal are not covered by any Tree Protection Orders, and a Tree Felling Licence is not required, and a bat survey has already been undertaken.

Clearance of Rubbish: Following the felling of the trees, the "Wildlife Warriors" will clear the site of tree and vegetation debris that cannot be re-cycled in the plan - piling branches, briars and brush into large piles in readiness for a bonfire party evening later in the year. They will also assist in the removal of builder's rubble that was fly-tipped some years ago and cannot be re-cycled as part of the project.

Fencing & Hedging: The site will be stock-fenced along one boundary by a professional fencing contractor to ensure that the area is protected from livestock going forward, and the hedges of the other boundaries will be suitably cut back by a hedging contractor.

The "Wildlife Warriors" will plant a hedge inside the newly erected fence using native species (blackthorn, hawthorn or similar) and in-fill the existing hedges where required. In time this will generate a facility to enable a future generation of "Wildlife Warriors" the opportunity to learn hedge-laying and coppicing skills.

Pathways: Two paths will be created and constructed by the "Wildlife Warriors" across the site. One path will be of a standard suitable for disabled and infirm users.

New Trees: New trees/saplings (rowan, silver birch, hazel, oak) will be planted by the "Wildlife Warriors" to replace those damaged by rabbits and

livestock in the area planted in 2005. They will in-fill in the old wood section replacing the removed Sycamore with native saplings.

Wildflower Meadow: The lower section once cleared will be prepared for the sowing of grass and wild flower seed. In the future the “Wildlife Warriors” will be able to learn about the insects that frequent the wildflower meadow, and learn how to harvest wildflower seed.

Seating: Several benches will be situated across the whole site, and a log circle will be created as seats for children, doubling up as a forest school area.

Enhanced Habitat: The “Wildlife Warriors” will build Bug, Bee and Hedgehog Hotels as well as making and erecting Bird, Bat and Owl boxes.

Education: Interpretation signage advising people what they can look out for and what they can see will primarily be designed by the “Wildlife Warriors”, commissioned and erected.

Acknowledgement: A sculpture or cairn of wood or stone will be erected with a plaque acknowledging the physical or financial help given to develop the site.

5 Project Outcomes

- Enhancement and improvement of existing habitats for wildlife
- Enhanced local biodiversity that will be actively managed
- Involvement of a number of children from the local youth group – “Wildlife Warriors” - in planning and executing the development of the site
- Develop the countryside skills, team working, confidence and experience of the “Wildlife Warriors” leading to improved employability in the future
- Create a dedicated open space to be enjoyed by the community, walkers and visitors
- Provide a safe and secure site for off-site visits by groups of children including those with special needs.

6 Project Beneficiaries

- Local community, to include people of all ages and abilities
- Walkers, ramblers and visitors to the area (a new circular walk is to be advertised to take in this site)
- Gwent Wildlife Trust Education Department
- Gwent “Wildlife Warriors” Youth Group
- Wildlife – a wide range of species and habitats will benefit as a result of this work. Activities to enhance biodiversity will contribute towards local and national biodiversity targets. Interpretation will bring about a greater understanding and engagement with wildlife in the community.

7 Project Sustainability

The Community Council will undertake to set aside an Annual budget to ensure that maintenance of the site is continued going forward, and the Magor Marsh “Wildlife Warriors” are committed to helping maintain the site as part of their annual group syllabus of activities.

8 Funding Sources

The Community Council earmarked a sum of £6000 in their 2013/2014 budget towards the maintenance of this site. If necessary, they have agreed to earmark further funds in the 2015/2016 budget to ensure this project can be completed.

Application has been made to the Woodland Trust for 420 free saplings: 60 hawthorn, 90 rowan, 75 blackthorn, 75 silver birch, 60 hazel and 60 common oak. If the application is successful (results in September 2014) these can then be used to form a hedge, or be planted as single saplings/ trees.

Pearce Seeds Ltd have committed to supplying, free of charge, a grass and wild flower seed mixture for the wildflower meadow.

KG Gardens Grounds Maintenance have provided in excess of 40 hours free labour to fell and remove diseased trees from site.

Gwent Games Services have committed to treating the tree stumps of the felled trees.

Edmonds Tree Services will be donate chipped bark for the pathways.

Hillcroft Recovery Service has supplied the logs for the forest school/seating.

Grant applications for financial funding have also been submitted to:

- Sainsburys

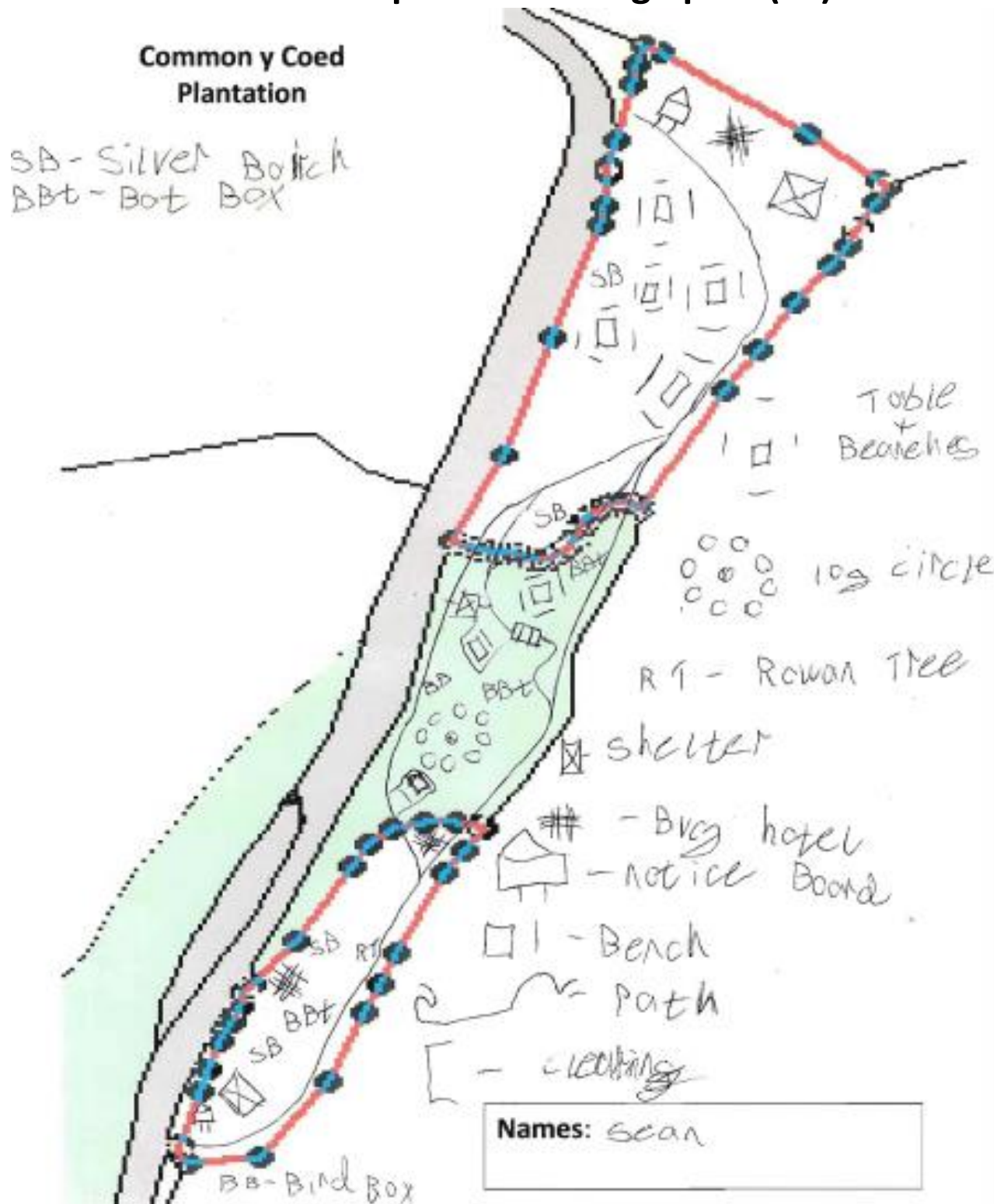
9 Project Delivery

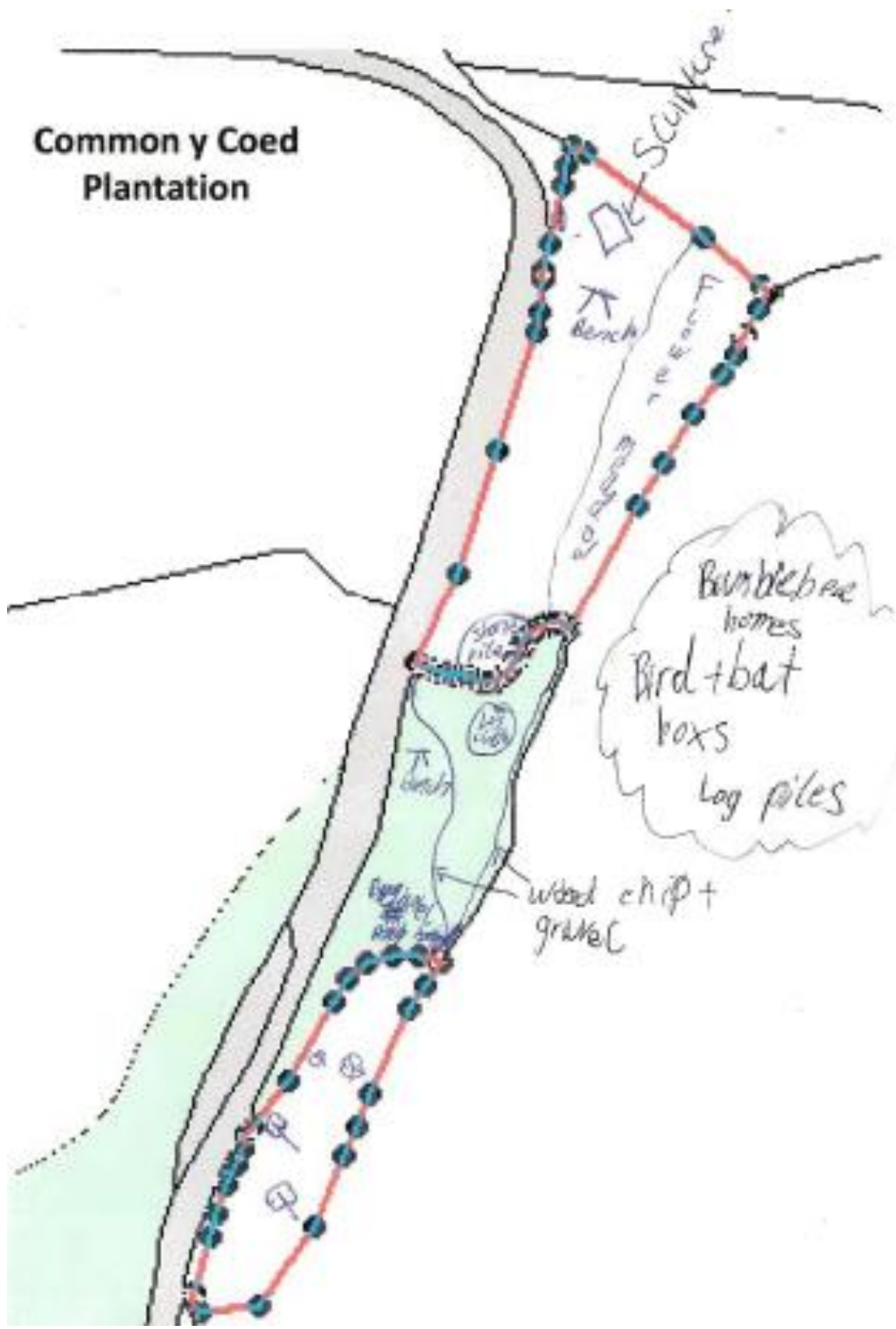
Some work, being undertaken by contractors has already commenced.

The partners, subject to successful grant applications and with the help of the “Wildlife Warrior” volunteers, hope to deliver this project by Summer 2020.

10 Appendices

a. 'Wildlife Warrior' sample initial design plan (x2)





b. 'Wildlife Warrior' design ideas and thoughts list

POINTS & IDEAS FROM THE COMMONYCOED SURVEY SHEETS FROM MAGOR MARSH WILDLIFE WARRIORS (10 Survey sheets returned)

LAYOUT:

clearings	1
flower bed	1
flower meadow	1
Footpath (normal) could be zigzag over tough ground	10
Footpath (wheelchair/pushchair) gentle slope then flat	6
gates at top and bottom	1
hedge along roadside planted in hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn	1
mown grass path in top section which can change	1
pond	1
railings to make sure you can't fall off the path,	1
ramps (for buggies)	2
some flat land	1
specimen single trees of rowan, silver birch and oak in bottom & middle section	5
specimen trees - cut down some trees and replace with apple and pear trees	1
steps include to get from different levels	2
steps on footpath, slopes on disabled footpath	4
stone pile	1
stream	1
trees planted to form shape of W T (wildlife trust)	1
tunnel path made of willow	1
wood chip or gravel path	2
wooden planks - maybe we could get donations from our schools for wooden planks and to help our wildlife survive	1
wooden planks could be used for the path (maybe donated if possible)	1

SIGNAGE:

dogs on leads	2
interpretation posts	1
notice/interpretation/information board	3
signs	1

WILDLIFE:

bat boxes	3
bee houses/homes	4
bird boxes	6
insect houses/homes/bug hotel	4
log piles	2
owl boxes	1
reptile houses/homes	2

FURNITURE/BUILDINGS:

benches - could be made from spare wood	6
bird hide	1
campfire place	1
car park	1
dry stone sculpture or other	2
greenhouse	1
log circle	8
obelisk with plaque made of slate or stone	1
picnic benches	2
seating in half circle so people can face each other	1
shelter or hut (as HQ) and/or school lunch room shelter	6
tables	3
toilet (could be in plastic cubicle with a normal tap)	4

ACTIVITIES:

finding games	1
game when you have pictures of animals to find	1
left and right signs for a maze	1

c. 'Wildlife Warrior' Flora & Fauna list

WILD FLOWERS, FERNS & GRASSES			
Bindweed, Field	Deadly Nightshade	Lady's Slipper	Shepherd's Purse
Birdsfoot trefoil	Devil's Bit Scabious	Mallow, Dwarf	Silverweed
Bluebell	Dock	Meadow Cranesbill	Sorrel
Bracken	Dog's Mercury	Meadow Grass	St John's Wort, Common
Briar	Fat Hen	Nettle, Stinging or Common	Sweet Vernal Grass
Bugle	Fern, Male	Onion, wild	Thistle, Creeping
Butterbur	Fern, Mother in Laws Tongue	Ox-eye Daisy (Moon Daisy)	Thistle, Scotch
Buttercup, Creeping	Field Horsetail	Oxslip	Thistle, Sow
Buttercup, Meadow	Field Woodrush	Plantain, Ribwort	Thistle, Spear
Celandine, Lesser	Garlic Mustard	Polypody, Common	Timothy
Cleavers	Germander Speedwell	Poppy	Vetch, Winter
Clover Red	Ground Elder	Primrose	Violet, Common
Clover, White	Ground Ivy	Red Campion	White Dead Nettle
cocksfoot	Hawkbit, Rough	Red Dead Nettle	Wild Carrot
Couch Grass	Herb Robert	Red Fescue	Wild Strawberry
Cow Parsley	Honeysuckle	Rosebay Willowherb	Wood Anemone
Cowslip	Hops, Common	Rye Grass	Woodbine (old Man's Beard)
Cuckoo Flower (Lady's Smock)	Knapweed, Black	Scarlet Pimpernel	Woodruff, Sweet
Cuckoo Pint (Lords & Ladies)	Knotgrass	Self Heal	Yarrow
Dandelion	Lady's Bedstraw	Sheep Burnet	Yellow Archangel
TREES & SHRUBS			
Ash	Crab Apple	Guelder Rose	Rowan (Mountain Ash)
Beech	Elder	Hawthorn	Silver Birch
Blackthorn	Dogwood	Hazel	Spindleberry
Cherry	Field Maple	Oak	
FAUNA, BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS & BIRDS			<i>* indicates 'signs of'</i>
* Badger	Great Tit	Millipede	* Tawney Owl
Blackbird	Greenfinch	* Muntjac Deer	Thrush
Blue tit	Grey Squirrel	Peacock Butterfly	Tortoiseshell butterfly
Buzzard	Hedge sparrow	Pheasant	Wood Louse
Carriion Crow	Jackdaw	Rabbit	Wood Pigeon
Centipede	Jay	Robin	Woodmouse
Coal tit	Ladybird	Rook	Woodpecker, Great Spotted
Common earthworm	* Little Owl	Sparrow Hawk	Woodpecker, green
Dunnock	Long Tail Tit	Starling	Wren
* Fox	Magpie	Stock Dove	
Goldfinch	Meadow Brown Butterfly	Swallow	

d. Estimated Costings

MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT WORK AT COMMONYCOED PLANTATION									
INCOME			est value		EXPENDITURE				
KG Garden Services	Felling diseased trees	labour (<i>in kind</i>)	2500.00	√	KG Garden Services	Felling diseased trees	labour	2500.00	E √
Pearce Seeds	wildflower/grass mix	grant/donation	184.00	√	KG Garden Services	Felling diseased trees	machine hire	516.00	A √
Benjamin Edmunds	wood chippings	grant/donation	120.00		Willow Landscapes	Spraying weeds	materials & labour	30.00	A √
Woodland Trust	tree saplings	grant (@0.65p each)	273.00	√	Adam Alderson	stock fencing and gate	materials & labour	1550.00	A √
Malcolm Williams	log circle	grant/donation	200.00	√	Adam Alderson	2nd ROW access gate	materials & labour	200.00	A √
WG/MCC/EU	Interpretation sign x2	grant	3778.50	√	Pearce Seeds	wildflower/grass mix	grant	184.00	E √
Sainsburys (direct to GWT)	gloves, goggles, hammers, wood	grant	462.00	√	Stuart Smith Plant Hire	mini digger	<i>found the removal of soil & rubble</i>	280.00	A √
Gwent Game Services	tree stump treatment	labour/materials (<i>in kind</i>)	280.00	√	MPA Insurance Broking	insurance on digger	<i>found the removal of soil & rubble</i>	54.75	A √
					Travis Perkins	loose scalplings	est 20 tonne	400.00	E
					Travis Perkins	stone chippings	est 2 bags	84.12	E
					ALS Trading	6x1x3.6m gravel board	60 @ £4.5	270.00	E
					ALS Trading	nails & fixings	1 @ £5	5.00	E
					Benjamin Edmunds	wood chippings	grant '6 tonnes @ £20	120.00	E
					Woodland Trust	tree saplings	grant @ 0.65 each	273.00	E √
					European Funding via Adventa	Interpretation sign x2	grant	3778.50	E √
					Malcolm Williams	log circle	grant 5 @ £40 each	200.00	E √
					Wybone	Litter Bin (wooden)	1	362.00	E
					Wybone	Benches (wooden)	1	540.00	A √
					Various (direct by GWT)	gloves goggles hammers wood	approx	462.00	E √
					Gwent Game Services	tree stump treatment	labour/materials	280.00	E √
					Les Prtichard JCB Hire	removal of old shed/rubble etc	labour/machinery	240.00	A √
					Dan Haines (Llanvair Landscapes)	hedge cut back to standard	labour/machinery	400.00	A √
			7797.50					12729.37	
UPDATED 2019									
Budget Total	(£6K & £1K)		7000.00						
plus grants & gift in kind			7797.50						
Total Budget available			14797.50		Key:	E	Estimate cost		
less actual expenditure			3810.75			A	Actual cost		
less estimated (monetary) expenditure			1121.12			√	Received or paid		
less estimated (in-kind/grant) expenditure <i>(cost of project)</i>			7797.50						
			12729.37						
BUDGET REMAINING				2068.13					

e. Photo Gallery



Sections of the existing stock fencing that is in need of replacement



Existing metal gate that is rusted at the hinges, and the kissing gate that need re-hanging.



Wildlife Warriors and leaders on one of their field trips to identify flora and fauna