

Final report: Mynydd a bywyd gwyllt 2009-2010.

CCW Grant: GU9155

Bryan Dickinson, Coetir Mynydd

On 16th June 2009 Coetir Mynydd, a community group based in Mynydd Llandygai received a grant from CCW towards a biodiversity-related project set in and around the village. Numerous events and works took place throughout the year and although the project was scheduled to end on 1st March 2010, due to the assistance that the grant has provided, numerous activities were enabled and many aspects of the project are expected to continue into the future.

There were three main strands to the project:

- 1) Development of a village biodiversity recording scheme
- 2) Promoting community action for biodiversity
- 3) Raising awareness and understanding of key habitats and species within the village.

For simplicity, the activities we undertook are described separately under these headings, though in reality many events and activities were able to contribute more than one theme at the same time.

A) Development of a village biodiversity recording scheme

The objective of this project element was to build on existing records that villagers have collected, by covering selected taxa in more depth and extending surveys across the village.

A1 PDA-based wildlife keys

Two hand-held pdas ('personal digital assistants') were purchased for Coetir Mynydd plus a two-year "Wildkey" software license for pond dipping species. The pdas were tested by children at a Pond dipping event held in July. Other software including Butterflies, Bugs & Garden birds identification were also tested during a meadow walk in August. The children enjoyed using the new technology which enabled them to identify several species using simple dichotomous keys and images, and the pdas will definitely be used again in similar events in the future.

A2 Biodiversity surveys

Numerous events took place throughout the year which contributed biodiversity records which have been passed on to the relevant bodies and/or the local recording centre, COFNOD. The main activities included a village-wide questionnaire survey of 'Biodiversity Action Plan' (BAP) species (see Appendix 1. for details), Surveys of garden birds as part of the RSPB 'Big garden bird watch 2010', plus subsidiary events such as the childrens "Crazy Cuckoo Count", Village Bat walks, woodland fungi and bryophyte surveys; and invasive plant surveys.

Particularly successful was the BAP questionnaire, which elicited a response from approximately 20% of the households in the village area. Response to this years Big Garden Bird watch was also tremendous, with at least 18 households participating (almost twice that of last year). The local school, Ysgol Bodfeurig were also involved and were interviewed on BBC Wales 'Country Focus' magazine where they discussed bird feeding and nestboxes provided as part of this project.

The final session of the project was training given by Geoff Gibbs, on the BTO Breeding Birds Atlas survey methods. Following this, several volunteers have come forward to adopt two nearby tetrads and will be sending in data to the BTO on the breeding bird species present.

A3 Database management

In all, over 648 records of 200 species were collected during the short span of the project. A further 1000+ historic records of 275 species found in the village area were gathered from various

previously undocumented sources. All these records have been passed on to the relevant conservation bodies and will also be made publicly available via COFNOD and also the Coetir Mynydd website. For the future, the opportunity to report additional records will be maintained in various ways, both directly to the Coetir Mynydd committee and also via the groups website. See Appendix 2 for the data collected.

A4 Specialist surveys and surveyor training

The project has enabled several taxon specialists to carry out training of volunteers in the village. Training included sessions on: Woodland bird calls, Fungi and Bryophytes identification, and surveying of breeding birds. Training was also included as part of numerous other subsidiary events, such as Bird identification (e.g. childrens Crazy Cuckoo count); invasive plant species (during clearing of Spanish Bluebells, Himalayan Balsam) and Lichen identification (at natural dyeing session). All the targets for this activity have been reached, but more importantly, we are confident that volunteers will continue to collect and report data on biodiversity in the area over the coming years which will be a better indicator of success.

Targets:

For activity 'A' (Development of a village biodiversity recording scheme)

Target	Achievement
A1: Biodiversity database	Over 1500 records, of >300 species documented and entered into Excel and Foxpro databases and/or Mapinfo GIS. All records passed onto COFNOD and/or other appropriate bodies.
A2: Two bird/plant identification training events	<p>>8 events in total</p> <p>Woodland Bird calls (6th June, 5 vols, 4 hours) Invasive Plant ID (4 events in June/July, 9 vols, 18 hours) BAP species questionnaire (14th August, 28 vols, 1 hour) Lichen ID for natural dyes (16th August, 26 vols, 30mins) Fungi Foray (20th September, 15 vols, 4 hours) Bryophyte ID (6th & 12th December, 5 vols, 5 hours) Big Garden birdwatch (20th Jan, 24 volunteers, 1 hour) BTO Breeding Bird survey training (13th February, 10 vols, 4 hours)</p>
A3: One hundred volunteer hours on biodiversity surveys and data collection	<p>Woodland Bird calls: 20 hours Invasive Plant survey & ID: 18+ hours (Himalayan Balsam mapped over approx 300ha) BAP species questionnaire: 24 hours Lichen ID for natural dyes: 13 hours Fungi Foray: 60 hours Bryophyte ID: 25 hours Big garden birdwatch: 24 hours BTO Breeding Bird training 40 Hours</p> <p>Total Volunteer time:224 hours</p>

B) Promote community action for biodiversity

This project element was intended to provide opportunities for people to learn about and be involved in practical wildlife management. A variety of events were organised, many of which will undoubtedly be repeated again in the future.

B1 Volunteer days in Coetir Mynydd woodland

A 'tidy up' day was organised for the Parc yr Ynys & Parc yr Ocar woodland on 31st May. Although there was little to do on the day, several other informal tidy-ups took place throughout the year as and when they were required.

B2 Bird feeding

A simple survey of bird feeding around the village was carried out in May 2009. Dr. Rachel Taylor, an ornithologist from Bangor University was able to provide information and advice on feeding, to residents who were involved in nest-box making and the bird-ringing project. Children at Ysgol Bodfeurig were encouraged to keep their bird table (provided by Coetir Mynydd earlier) well-stocked with appropriate feed.

B3 Removing non-native species

This project proved to be particularly successful, with many volunteers getting involved in either mapping invasive species around the area, or coming out to help remove them.

Spanish Bluebell: One garden was targeted which contained substantial amounts of bulbs which the owner wanted removed, but due to disability was unable to do so. A large number of bulbs (~ 5 sacks) were removed (possibly 90%), but it is likely that further visits will be required.

Japanese Knotweed: At least five populations were identified, two of which had been tackled by the owners, but possibly ineffectively. The other sites were mapped, but due to their extent and location will need to be tackled at a later date.

Rhododendron, Montbretia and Lesser Knotweed were noted in the village, but only populations within Parc yr Ocar were removed.

Himalayan Balsam: Mapping of this species was very successful (see Appendix 3) and showed three separate areas: one to the east of the village following the line of the Galedffrwd; one in gardens at the edge of St. Ann's common; and one to the west of the village leading downstream to Sling common. Two priority areas were clearly identified: the Galedffrwd, as the number of plants was relatively small and the entire area could be tackled in one season, and St. Ann's, as plants were just beginning to spread out of gardens onto a very large area of open ffridd. In all, Himalayan Balsam was mapped and/or cleared on 11 days over the summer period, 12 volunteers helped in clearance, and 20 in mapping. The entire length of the Galedffrwd is thought to have been cleared, and all plants removed from two gardens and on St. Ann's common. By doing this, an extensive area land of high conservation value will be protected. It is very much hoped that both these areas can be re-visited in the next year, and in the future so that these areas can be kept Balsam free. The population leading downstream to Sling is a much bigger proposition, and tackling this successfully, though possible, will need a longer term project. However, the mapping of this species during the current project will be extremely useful as a 2009 baseline.

B4 Bird ringing

This has been a very successful sub-project which was initially included to involve volunteers in practical work related to bird conservation and research. Children and adults were able to observe

Dr. Rachel Taylor ring adult and nestling Blue Tits when she visited Ysgol Bodfeurig and 10 gardens in the village. During this activity it became obvious that numerous nest-boxes in the village were either badly designed or inappropriately sited. To improve this situation, a practical nestbox making session was organised in the autumn. To maximise the education value, a visit by schoolchildren to the local Forestry Commission plantation was arranged (see C2 below) where they also got a talk on forest ecology, watched a tree being felled & sawn, and these planks were then used to make the nestboxes!

The initial funding provided by CCW for a small amount of bird-ringing has encouraged the leaders and villagers to organise a spin off project titled “Fast Food Birds” This is an 18-month research project funded by Beacon for Wales where a lecturer and two students from Bangor university will work with residents of Mynydd Llandygai to look at habitat use and garden bird-feeding by Blue- and Great-Tits.

Targets:

For activity ‘B’(promote community action for biodiversity):

Target	
B1: One woodland maintenance volunteer day	One woodland tidy up event held on 31 st May, plus additional sessions throughout the year (8 volunteers, 3 hours)
B2: Twenty people aware of importance of different feeding regimes for priority species	28+ people received information on bird-feeding during three nestbox-making sessions, and two other bird-related events.
B3: Removal of non-native species from one garden	Spanish Bluebells removed (first visit) from one garden. Himalayan Balsam mapped over approx. 300ha. Actively cleared (first visit) from 4 gardens AND approx. 20ha woodland / scrub. (9+ volunteers, 49+ hours)

C) Raise awareness and understanding of key habitats and species within the village

This project element was concerned with education and promoting the enjoyment of biodiversity and helping to generate a greater 'connection' between residents and the natural environment. A wide variety of events were held which were well attended and enjoyed by all.

C1 Planning of events

Fewer formal organisational meetings were held than expected, mainly due to the shortened timescale for the project, but additional meetings were not felt necessary. A full calendar of events was established early on which we were able to follow with very few changes.

C2 Social events

The first 'social' event was a "Dawn chorus Listen" held in early Spring. Despite a very early (5am) start, eight people met in Parc yr Ocar to listen and enjoy the spring birdsong.

Members of the North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) were invited to Mynydd Llandygai for a wildlife walk, led by Sian Turner and other members of Coetir Mynydd. This was a good opportunity for NWWT members to explore a new area, and for Coetir Mynydd residents to see the broadleaf woodland and Ffridd habitats through a different set of eyes. 17 members came on the 5 hour walk and picnic. NWWT have recently requested a return visit to the area in 2010.

The project enabled Coetir Mynydd to purchase a basic bat detector, and several bat surveys were carried out using protocols designed by the Snowdonia Mammal group. In addition, two "Village bat walks" were organised so that residents had the chance to observe and listen to several bat species found in the area. These proved very successful, with at least three species being heard, and very good views of soprano pipistrelles hawking between street lights. 11 people attended for the two, two-hour sessions. Hopefully, additional village bat walks can now be incorporated into the village summer festival in coming years.

The highlight of the summer was a "Wildflower meadow picnic" held at Bryn Glas on 16th August. As well as walking through herb-rich meadows and young woodland, Jenny Wong gave a fascinating demonstration of natural dyeing using common lichens. Everyone had an opportunity to dye samples of wool and to learn to identify the lichens in the field during the walk afterwards. 24 people attended for the day (5 hours). See Appendix 4 for photos.

C3 School events

The first event organised for school children was the "Crazy Cuckoo Count" on 21st May. Immediately after school ended for the day, parents and children walked to listening points arranged around the Mynydd Llandygai and spent 10 minutes listening quietly and recording the time and direction of any Cuckoos they heard. 32 volunteers were involved for at least 15mins each. The locations of any cuckoos were recorded by triangulating observations onto a map (see Appendix 5). Although only one male cuckoo was heard during the 15 minute survey, other birds were recorded, great fun was had by all the participants and it is hoped that the event will be repeated in the future.

Just before the end of the summer term, on 7th July, a childrens picnic and 'Pond-dip' was held at Ynys Uchaf. On a very pleasant sunny afternoon 17 children and adults attended for over 3 hours. The children were assisted in identifying as many species from the pond as possible using hand-held palm computers (pda's). These worked well, especially with the older children (8yrs+), and requests have been made to use the pdas, by other families.

On 21st October we made arrangements between a Forestry contractor based in the village (John Sweeny) and the Forestry Commission to take the children from Ysgol Bodfeurig into the nearby Conifer plantation to learn more about the forest. The children were able to walk from the school through the village and into the centre of the forest. After a brief talk, the children and teachers watched as two Larch trees were felled and sawn into planks. 30+ children and adults attended (plus 4 visiting teachers from Ghana) for the two hour session.

Leading on from the forestry visit, an ‘after-school’ nestbox-making session was organised and parents were given advice on siting the boxes and feeding birds through the winter. Six children each made a box during this session and 11 other children had made boxes at other sessions over the weekend. The leader of the Tregarth village youth club also attended and was supplied with plans to make more boxes with youngsters in Tregarth.

C4 Summer festival

Unfortunately, the Mynydd Llandygai summer festival was unexpectedly cancelled as renovations had to be carried out on the Neuadd Goffa. However, the next festival set for July 2010 is expected to be very well attended, and a full display of all the results from this project will be given then. A presentation of the projects achievements was also given at the before the close of the project on Feb 26th 2010.

For activity ‘C’ (raise awareness and understanding of key habitats and species within the village).

Target	
C1: One presentation to village of results of biodiversity project	One presentation given on Feb 26 th 2010. An additional larger display of achievements is planned for the Mynydd Llandygai summer festival in July 2010.
C2: One wildlife walk for pupils in Ysgol Bodfeurig	Four events were organised specifically for children: the “Crazy cuckoo count”, a Pond dip. A Forest walk & demonstration, and after-school nest-box-making.

Summary

From Coetir Mynydd’s viewpoint, the project has been extremely successful and well-received by all who took part. Altogether, 116 individuals (70 adults and 46 children) took part and 700 hours were spent on voluntary activities during the project.

Clearly, all the targets have been reached and the majority greatly exceeded. In reality though, the true success will only be visible over the next few years, when the skills and knowledge gained through this project are put to use.

Though it is difficult to predict what the long-term outcome of such a project might be, certain achievements stand out as being significant:

- 1) The identification and control of invasive plants which are just beginning to spread onto high-value conservation habitats (i.e. Himalayan Balsam on St. Ann’s common).
- 2) Increased involvement in recognising and recording important conservation species in the local area: (i.e. new volunteers contributing records to local and national biodiversity surveys)
- 3) An enthusiasm to continue several of the children’s activities into the future (e.g. bird feeding, Cuckoo count, summer pond dip, wildflower picnic etc).

THANKS to all the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the project.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: BAP Questionnaire

Appendix 2: Summary of data sent to COFNOD and/or other organisations

Appendix 3: Removal of invasive species

Appendix 4: Wildflower meadow picnic and lichens






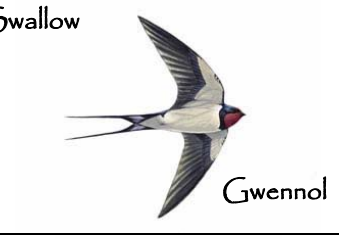


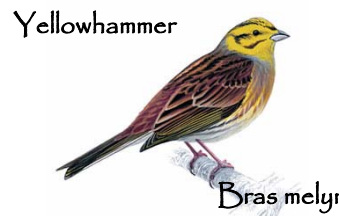

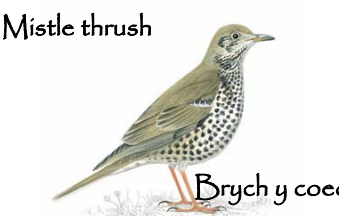


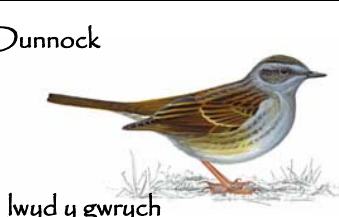





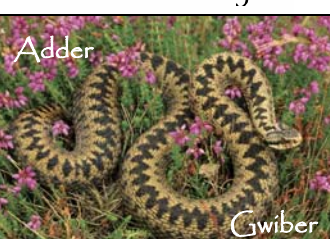

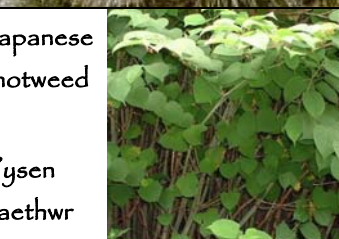


Appendix 5: Childrens activities

Appendix 6: List of activities

Appendix 1 Species of conservation concern in the Mynydd Llandygai area

Rhywogaethau sy'n bryder gwarchodaeth yn ardal Mynydd Llandygai

Have you seen any of these species in your garden or nearby?
Ydych chi wedi gweld unrhyw un o'r rhywogaethau hyn yn eich gardd neu yn ymyl?

 Brown hare Ysgyfarnog	 Hedgehog Draenog	 Common lizard Madfall	 Slow-worm Neidr ddefaid
 House martin Gwennol y bondo	 Swallow Gwennol	 Swift Gwennol ddu	 Barn owl Tylluan wen
 Yellowhammer Bras melyn	 Starling Drudwen	 Mistle thrush Brych y coed	 Song thrush Bronfraith
 Bullfinch Coch y berllan	 Dunnock Llwyd y gwrych	 Tree sparrow Golfan y mynydd	 House sparrow Aderyn y to
 Common toad Llyffant dafadenog	 Otter Dyfrgi	 Water vole Llygoden bengron y dŵr	 Adder Gwiber
 Himalayan balsam Jac y Neidiwr	 Japanese knotweed Pysen saethwr	 Eel Llyswen	 Coetir Mynydd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

The wildlife shown are of local or national conservation concern. You can help protect them by telling us if you have seen them recently in the Mynydd Llandygai area. All wildlife records are useful. Use the poster to help identify them and remind you of what to look out for. "Think global, act Local!"

Mae'r bywyd gwyllt a ddangosir yn bryderon gwarchodaeth lleol / cenedlaethol. Gallwch gynorthwyo i'w hamddiffyn trwy ddweud wrthym os ydych chi wedi eu gweld yn ardal Mynydd Llandygai yn ddiweddar (2008-2009). Mae pob cofnod o fywyd gwyllt yn ddefnyddiol. Defnyddiwch y poster fel cymorth i'w hadnabod ac i'ch hatgoffa o be i wyllo amdano. Os oes unrhyw un o'r adar yn nythu yn eich gardd neu ar eich hadeiladau a fuasech cystal â rhoi gwybod i ni os gwelwch yn dda. "Meddyliwch yn Fyd-eang, gweithredwch yn Lleol!"

Give your records to any CoetirMynydd wildlife group member, or send them to:

Rhowch eich cofnodion i unrhyw aelod o grŵp bywyd gwyllt Coetir Mynydd, neu anfonwch nhw at:

Bryan Dickinson
Ynys Uchaf
Mynydd Llandygai
LL57 4BZ

Coetirmynydd@aol.com

The wildlife shown overleaf are of local or national conservation concern. You can help protect them by telling us if you have seen them in the Mynydd Llandygai area recently (2008-2009). All wildlife records are useful. Use the poster to help identify them and remind you of what to look out for. If any of the birds nest in your garden or on your buildings please let us know.

Mae'r bywyd gwyllt a ddangosir drosodd yn bryderon gwarchodaeth lleol / cenedlaethol. Gallwch gynorthwyo i'w hamddiffyn trwy ddweud wrthym os ydych chi wedi eu gweld yn ardal Mynydd Llandygai yn ddiweddar (2008-2009). Mae pob cofnod o fywyd gwyllt yn ddefnyddiol. Defnyddiwch y poster fel cymorth i'w hadnabod ac i'ch hatgoffa o be i wyllo amdano. Os oes unrhyw un o'r adar yn nythu yn eich gardd neu ar eich hadeiladau a fuasech cystal â rhoi gwybod i ni os gwelwch yn dda.

Tick if seen / Ticiwch os gwelwyd	Species / Rhywogaeth	Date last seen / Dyddiad gwelwyd ddiwethaf	Where seen? / Lle gwelwyd?
	Brown Hare / Ysgyfarnog		
	Hedgehog / Draenog		
	Common Lizard / Madfall		
	Slow-worm / Neidr ddefaid		
	Common Toad / Llyffant dafadennog		
	Otter / Dyfrgi		
	Water Vole / Llygoden bengron y dwr		
	Adder / Gwiber		
	Eel / Llyswen		

Do any of these birds nest in your garden ? / A oes unrhyw un o'r adar hyn yn nythu yn eich gardd?

Tick if seen / Ticiwch os gwelwyd	Species / Rhywogaeth	Date last seen / Dyddiad gwelwyd ddiwethaf	Nesting in your garden ? / Nythu yn eich gardd?
	Bullfinch / Cochy berllan		
	Dunnock / Llwyd y gwrych		
	Tree Sparrow / Golfan y mynydd		
	House Sparrow / Aderyn y to		
	House Martin / Gwennol y bondo		
	Swallow / Gwennol		
	Swift / Gwennol ddu		
	Barn Owl / Tylluan wen		
	Yellowhammer / Bras melyn		
	Starling / Drudwen		
	Mistle Thrush / Brych y coed		
	Song Thrush / Bronfraith		

These are not threatened, but damage natural habitats. If you have these on your property please let us know.

Nid yw'r rhain o dan fygythiad ond mae'n nhw'n difrodi cynefinoedd naturiol. Os oes gennych rai ar eich eiddo, rhowch wybod i ni os gwelwch yn dda.

	Himalayan Balsam / Jac y Neidiwr	
	Japanese Knotweed / Pysen saethwr	

Name / Enw

Address / Cyfeiriad:.....

Tel / Ffônemail / ebost.....

Do you have any comments / questions, or are there any species you would like to know more about? / A oes gennych chi sylwadau / gwestiynau, neu a oes unrhyw rywogaeth y dymunech wybod mwy amdani?

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Appendix 2

The following relate to files sent to COFNOD (North Wales Environmental Information Service), Intec, Ffordd y Parc, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 4FG

Results collated and sent to COFNOD and/or other relevant organisations

COFNOD Bat DATA.xls (Records of Bat species in Mynydd Llandygai area)
COFNOD BGBW2008 DATA.xls (Village-wide bird records following RSPB BGBW protocols)
COFNOD BGBW2009 DATA.xls (Village-wide bird records following RSPB BGBW protocols)
COFNOD BGBW2010 DATA.xls (Village-wide bird records following RSPB BGBW protocols)
COFNOD BirdQ DATA.xls (Results of a Bird questionnaire sent to all residents in the area)
COFNOD Bryophyte DATA.xls (Bryophyte species identified during training sessions)
COFNOD Butterfly DATA.xls (Records of Butterflies in Mynydd Llandygai area)
COFNOD CM BAPQ DATA.xls (Records from a questionnaire survey on BAP species in the area)
COFNOD Cuckoo count DATA.xls (Records from a survey in the Mynydd Llandygai area)
COFNOD Fungi DATA.xls (records collected from a fungi foray in the Mynydd Llandygai area)
COFNOD Mammal DATA.xls (Miscellaneous records of mammals from the area)
COFNOD Odonata DATA.xls (Records of Odonata from the Mynydd Llandygai area)
COFNOD Plant DATA.xls (Records of plant species from the Mynydd Llandygai area)

The following records relate to historical surveys commissioned by Coetir Mynydd for which we are awaiting confirmation from the surveyors.

COFNOD Moth JH DATA.xls (Records from a light trap session in Parc yr Ocar, tbc)
COFNOD Bird JH DATA.xls (historical Bird records from Parc yr Ocar, tbc)

Appendix 3

Mapping and removal of invasive plant species in the Mynydd Llandygai area.

Between June and September 2009 volunteers from Coetir Mynydd community group were involved in mapping and clearing various types of invasive plants in the local area.

The first practical session was the removal of Spanish Bluebells from one garden:

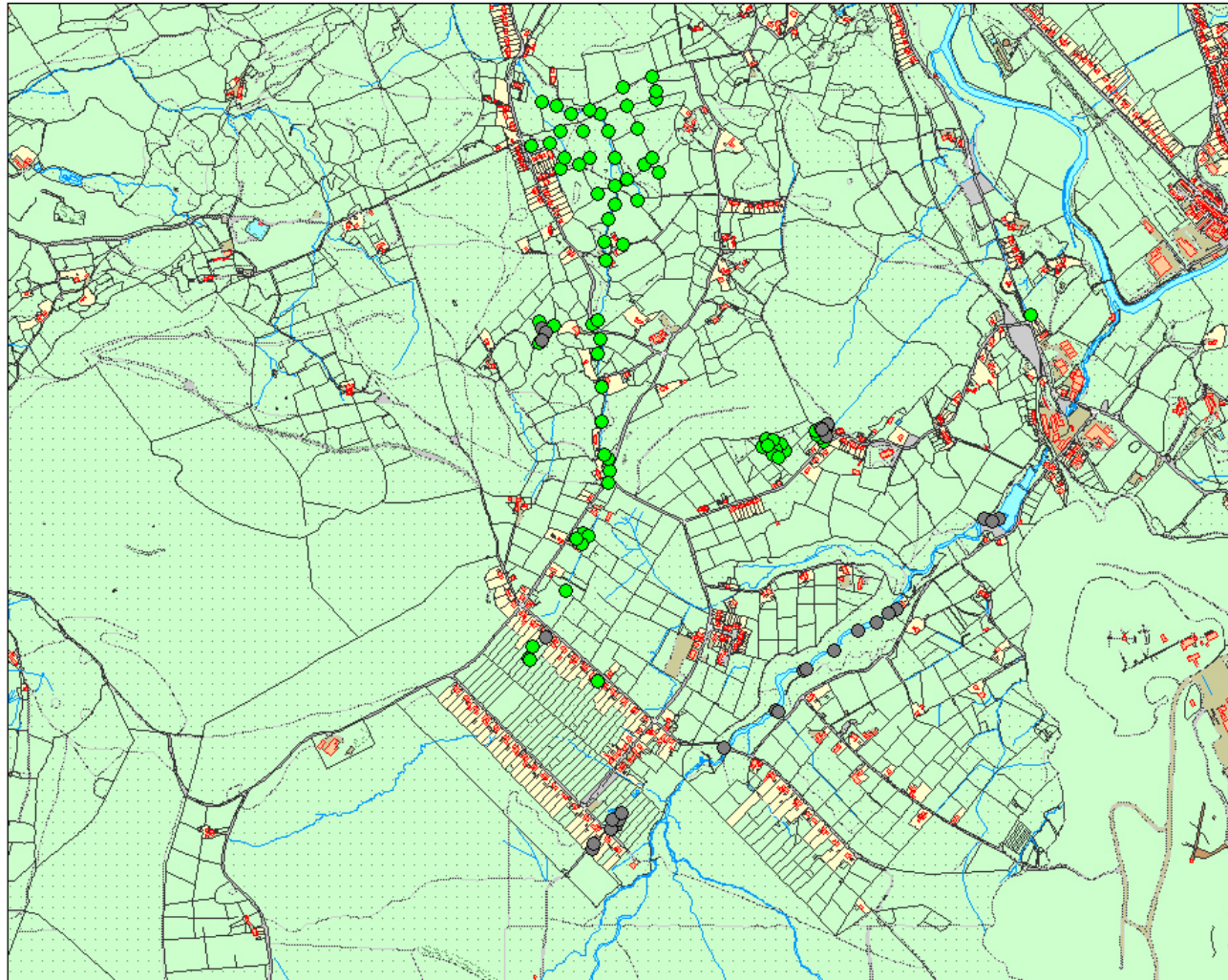
	
	
	<p>Between 500 and 1000 bulbs were removed. This was roughly 90% of what was visible, so at least one more session will be needed completely clear the site.</p>

Volunteers sent in records of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and these were mapped to show the extent of the populations in the Mynydd Llandygai, St. Ann's and Sling (Tregarth) areas. The mapping proved extremely useful in selecting which were the most appropriate areas that could be effectively tackled in 2009, and which areas may have to be left for the future.

Volunteers came out on at least 11 separate occasions to pull up and remove Himalayan Balsam before it shed its seeds. All the plants were removed from the site and destroyed to prevent any seeds being left behind:

	
	<p>Luckily, in several areas, Himalayan Balsam was present in only small patches which could be cleared in a few hours.</p>
	<p>However in other areas such as on the Sling common, the plant is much more established and will require more effort to remove it permanently.</p>

Mapping of Himalayan Balsam and other invasive species helped direct volunteers to where they could be most effective. This map shows the presence of Himalayan Balsam in 2009 (Green dots). The Grey dots represent patches which have so far been cleared.



Appendix 4.

Wildflower meadow picnic and demonstration of natural dyeing using common lichens

On 16th August Coetir Mynydd organised a 'social' event for the village which included a summer picnic, a 'wildflower' walk around some herb-rich meadows and woodland, and a practical demonstration of natural dyeing using common lichens. The event was well attended and was a good opportunity to learn more about wildflowers, insects and some common lichen species,.



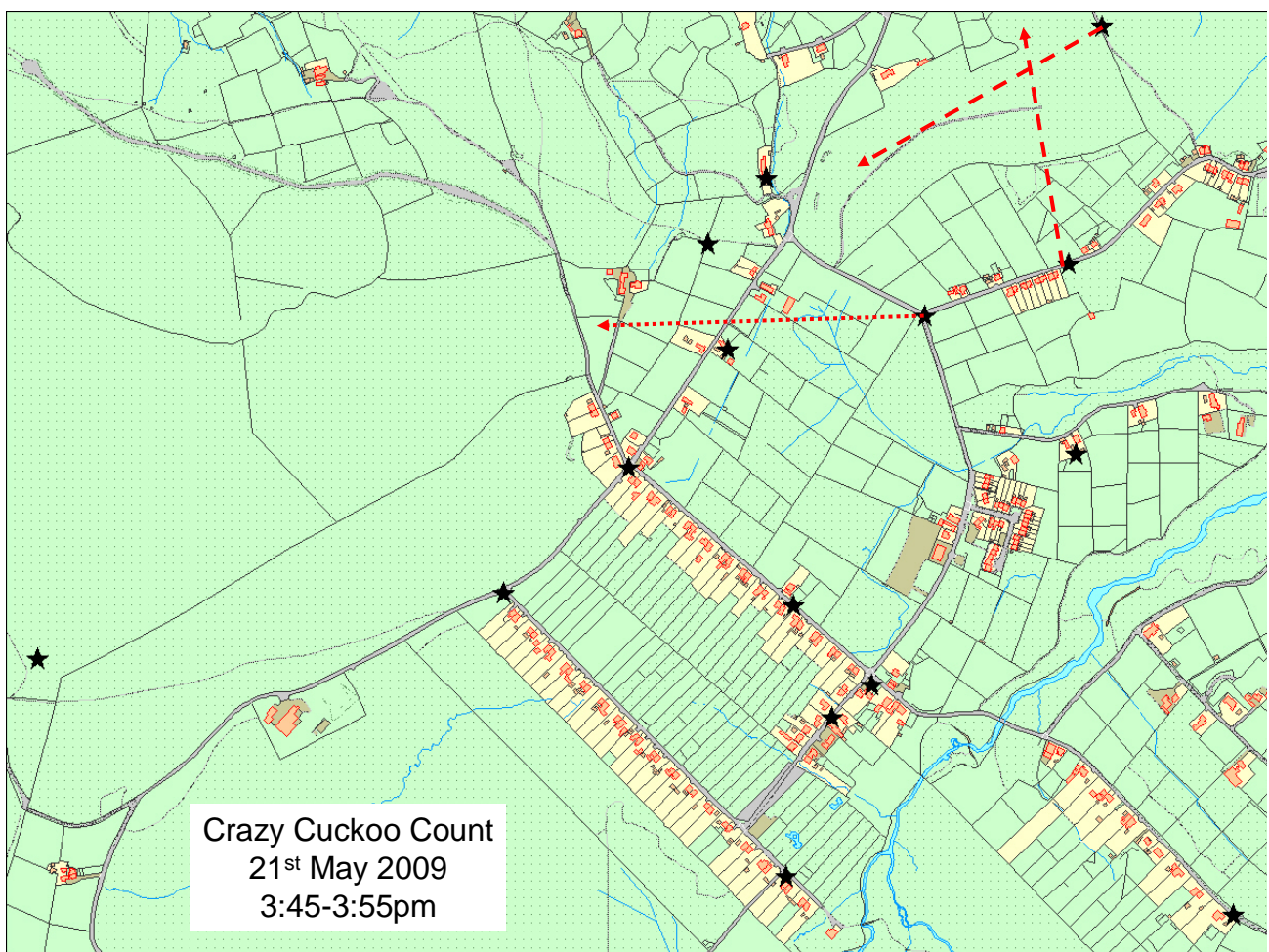
Appendix 5.

Childrens events: “Crazy Cuckoo Count”, Pond dipping, nest-box-making

On 21st May 2009 Coetir Mynydd organised a “Crazy Cuckoo Count”, mainly for pupils at Ysgol Bodfeurig and their parents. Altogether, over 30 volunteers walked to various locations spread around Mynydd Llandygai and St. Ann’s and listened out for calling Cuckoos. Everyone listened at the same time, for 10 minutes and noted the direction of any Cuckoos they heard. Afterwards, the directions were marked on a map to show how many cuckoos there might have been.

This was a great event for children to get involved in, and as well as learning to recognise the common Cuckoo call, children learned to recognise other similar-sounding birds such as Collared doves and also how far different calls can carry for.

The map below shows where volunteers listened (black stars) and the direction of calls heard (red arrows). One male cuckoo was heard during the 10 minute period, calling from woodland, and another (probably a different individual) calling from Moel y Ci shortly before.



Pond dip at Ynys Uchaf, Mynydd Llandygai, 7th July 2009

17 children and adults came 'pond-dipping' and picnic at Ynys Uchaf after school had finished. Everyone enjoyed collecting pond-dwelling creatures and studying them close-up, before returning them to the pond. All the older children also had the opportunity to use hand-held computers (pda's) with software to help them identify the creatures they found.

Children's Pond Dip

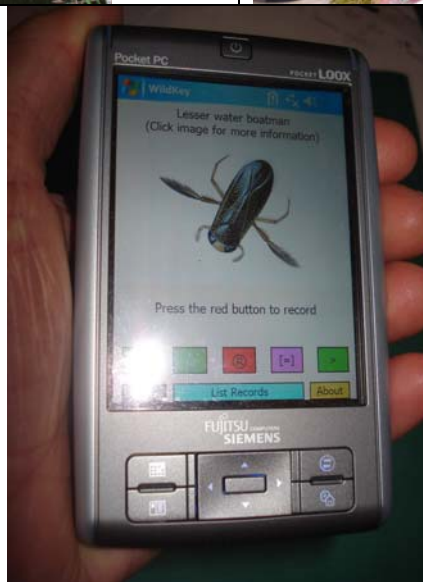
TUESDAY 7th JULY from 3:15pm
Meet at Ynys Uchaf from 3:15pm
Come along and see what wildlife we
can find in our pond. Everyone
welcome! Adults needed to supervise



Trochiad Pwll i Blant

DYDD MAWRTH 7fed
GORFFENNAF o 3:15pm Cyfarfod yn
Ynys Uchaf o 3:15pm Dewch o
gwmpas i weld pa natur ydyn ni'n
gallu ddod o hyd i yn ein pwll. Croeso
i bawbl Angen oedolion i edrych ar ôl
y blant llai. Bwyd wedi darparu.





Children's nest-box making session

Following a weekend of making bird nest-boxes, an after-school session was organised for children on November 30th 2009. The children had recently visited the local Forestry Commission forest to see the woodland, and all the timber for the nest-boxes came from two trees which the children saw being felled and sawn into planks.

All the children who made nest-boxes took them home to place in their gardens and many of these will later be used by a separate spin-off project looking at great- and blue-tits in the village. The nest-box making sessions were a good opportunity to discuss feeding garden birds and some food was provided for the Ysgol Bodfeurig bird table to help the pupils observe and record birds for the RSPB "big garden bird watch". The children were interviewed for BBC Wales Countryfile programme on Sunday on 31st January 2010 where they talked about feeding the birds and the nest-boxes.



Appendix 6.
List of events for Mynydd a bywyd gwyllt 2009-2010.

Events Calendar for Coetir Mynydd Wildlife Group										
Date	Month	Day	Event	Project code	Venue	Leader	Start	Duration	# vols	total vol time
3	March	Tuesday	Project planning meeting	C1	Ynys Uchaf	Bryan Dickinson	6pm	2	8	16
25	April	Saturday	Dawn Chorus walk	C2	Parc yr Ocar	Bryan Dickinson	4:45am	2	10	20
15	May	Friday	Bird Ringing from nest-boxes	B4	Mynydd Llandygai	Rachel Taylor	10am	3	2	6
21	May	Thurs	Crazy Cuckoo Count	C3 / C2 / A3	Mynydd Llandygai	Bryan Dickinson	3:45pm	0.25	30	7.5
31	May	Sunday	Woodland tidy up	B1	Parc yr Ocar	Sharon Sweeny	10am	1	5	5
5	June	Fri	Spanish Bluebell Clearance	A2 / A3 / B3	Twillukstump, Lon y Grug	Bryan Dickinson	6pm	3	4	12
6	June	Sat	Woodland Bird training	A2 / A4	Parc yr Ocar	Steve Ward	11am	4	5	20
20	June	Sat	Walk with NWWT	C2	Felin Fawr / Parc yr Ocar	Sian Turner	10am	4	5	20
22	June	Mon	Programme organisation meeting	C1	Ynys Uchaf	Bryan Dickinson	7:30pm	2	5	10
23	June	Tues	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	Coed y Parc	Bryan Dickinson	2pm	2	1	2
29	June	Mon	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	Galedffrwd	Bryan Dickinson	10am	5	1	5
30	June	Tues	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	Parc yr Ocar	Bryan Dickinson	11am	3	1	3
5	July	Sun	Himalayan Balsam clearance	A2 / A3 / B3	Pont Amana	Bryan Dickinson	2pm	2	5	10
7	July	Tues	Childrens pond dipping picnic	C3 / C2 / A1	Ynys Uchaf	Bryan Dickinson	3:15pm	2	17	34
8	July	Wed	Himalayan Balsam survey	B3	Mynydd Llandygai	Bryan Dickinson	11am	1	1	1
9	July	Thur	Himalayan Balsam clearance	A2/ A3 / B3	31 TYB	Bryan Dickinson	6pm	1.5	5	7.5
10	July	Fri	Himalayan Balsam survey	B3	TYB & Sling	Bryan Dickinson	11am	3	1	3
21	July	Tues	Himalayan Balsam survey	B3	St. Ann's Fridd	Bryan Dickinson	11am	2	1	2
24	July	Fri	Village Bat walk	C2	Neuadd Goffa	Bryan Dickinson	9:30pm	2	1	2
27	July	Mon	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	31 TYB	Bryan Dickinson	4:30pm	3	1	3
29	July	Wed	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	31 TYB	Bryan Dickinson	3:30pm	4.5	1	4.5
1	August	Sat	Himalayan Balsam clearance	A2/ A3 / B3	Plas Nant & 30 TYB	Tim Radford	11am	3	2	6
3	August	Mon	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	St. Ann's Ffridd	Bryan Dickinson	11am	7	1	7
8	August	Sat	Delivery of BAP Spp. Survey Questionnaire	A3/ A2	Mynydd Llandygai area	Bryan Dickinson		2	12	24
9	August	Sun	Completion of BAP spp. Survey Questionnaire	A2 / A3	Mynydd Llandygai area	Bryan Dickinson		1	28	28
15	August	Sat	Village Bat walk	C2	Neuadd Goffa	Bryan Dickinson	9pm	2	1	2
16	August	Sun	Wildflower meadow picnic & dyeing	A2 / C2	Bryn Glas	Jan Loxton	11am	5	26	130
3	Sept	Thur	Himalayan Balsam clearance	B3	St. Ann's Ffridd	Bryan Dickinson	11am	1	1	1
20	Sept	Sun	Charles Aron Fungi Foray	A2/ A3 / A4	Parc yr Ocar	Charles Aron	10 am	4	15	60

[illegible]