



Year 1 Evaluation

March 2020 - February 2021

Contents

Growing Better Connections Evaluation Overview.....	3
Evaluation of Funding Indicators.....	5
Landscape Connections Summary.....	6
Community Connections Summary.....	7
Case Study: St Dogmaels Apple Juicing Event.....	8
Case Study: Fronfedw – Landscape Connection site.....	10
Case study: Collaboration with Frenni Fawr Research Group (FFRG).....	12
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR).....	14
SMNR Principles met by GBC Activity.....	15
Broader Aims.....	18
Broader Aims met by GBC Activity.....	19
Conclusion and Recommendations.....	23
References.....	25



Growing Better Connections Evaluation Overview

Year 1: March 2020 -February 2021

GBC is a practical and far sighted response to the many challenges upon us, with a roadmap to resilience based on **connecting communities and landscape**. A key insight of this evaluation is that GBC is skilfully navigating uncertainty, both in the current situation of the pandemic, and equally to address the impending consequences of the nature crisis and its potential threat to us as people of West Wales. The GBC team has a **whole systems approach**, taking careful account of the ecological needs of specific sites and of individuals wellbeing, whilst giving keen attention to the bigger picture of landscape, community and beyond. Their **attention to detail and awareness of relationships**, whether social, economic or environmental, is delivering a service of immense value in light of their staff and budget resources.

The project began in March with the unprecedented situation of the corona virus, **adapting** to restrictions on movement and the huge impact on community engagement and project officer activity. The project team **responded** with a determined focus on putting in place the **groundwork** for future action, strengthening and building relevant **networks** and identifying groups and individuals as potential **stakeholders**.

Responding to the upsurge in public awareness to food growing and appreciation of time in nature, the GBC team quickly adapted **events and activities** to suit the contingencies of the times. This included guided nature walks, a nature blog and plant giveaways in partnership with local community halls. These activities were received well and it's reasonable to be confident they have contributed to **wellbeing and resilience** to people on a personal and community level in a time of crisis. As the year progressed, the overwhelming response from participants to GBC projects and events has shown the projects, advice and events is **needed and welcomed**. Whether a small event, such as a visit to the bug farm, or large scale collaborations, the response from people involved is that the GBC team provides good **quality work**, carried out with **enthusiasm** and **expertise**.

Site surveys have been designed, tested and used for practical interventions to improve wildlife habitat and ecosystem resilience. Partnerships to feed into national and regional **ecology databases** have been identified and **local people and project officers trained**, bringing citizen science into meaningful outcomes. **Connections with over 600 stakeholders** have had numerous positive outcomes at varied events. **Collaboration** with existing networks are yielding rich results, including work with the Frenni Fawr Research group; the Frenni Fach Graziers Association; and the WWBIC. Close collaboration with the steering group is underway, linking plans and activities to their networks. More recently, an important **collaboration** is underway with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, West Wales Rivers Trust, Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, Newport Area Environment Group and Community Councillors, known as **CLEAN** (Catchment Level Environment Action Network). CLEAN volunteers have begun to survey and collect water samples to improve the ecology of the Afon Nyfer.

As lockdown eased last summer, GBC were ready to hold a timely and informal event, **Garej y Sgwar Bugs Day**. This built on existing **community connections**, delivering an activity that increased **understanding** of the role and **benefits of nature** and was a good opportunity to road test the GBC team protocols, process and resources. However, by Autumn corona restrictions put many plans in question, and once again GBC showed extraordinary resolve to adapt and find a way to continue to deliver quality events.

Notably, **apple juicing days** were held in Brynberian, St Dogmaels and Hermon. People brought their own fruit and left with a delicious bounty of juice. These events were very **successful and well attended**. Feedback from the people showed a strong response that the events created a sense of feeling **connected and useful** and increased their **understanding of local heritage and nature**.

Sadly, a **Woodland Conference** had to be postponed indefinitely, though a programme of woodland related activities took up the baton and tied in with a **citizen science** day on Frenni Fach. The woodland programme included a 'Local Woods for Local People' **film**, **seed propagation** at Scolton Manor, a trip to Longwood forest and an enterprise day at Coppicewood. All these activities are carefully devised to **generate new opportunities** for communities, **build on existing connections**, address challenges **at scale** and take care of individual people's **wellbeing** and sense of purpose.

Support is underway to the **Cilgerran Fruit & Nuts** project, such as purchasing trees and offering subsidised first aid training for this motivated community group. **Hedgerows** are being planted and maintained to support wildlife and future project ideas. **Ponds** are being designed to address the challenges of climate and species loss. Plans are underway for **Tegryn** to be planted with trees; to support a group of landowners along the Dulas catchment to manage himalayan balsam; and working with **Coed Dulas** and neighbouring landowners to improve habitat. Less visible, though with huge potential, are the many interactions the GBC team is having with diverse groups and individuals, **signposting** them to information and networks for the good of landscape and communities.

All activity has been thoroughly **evaluated** by the team itself on many levels to keep track of their impacts, tweak their approach and to feedback into the project aims to keep improving their activities and making sure they are on track. The clear message from participants feedback is that GBC activity is **motivating** and **inspiring**.

Serious thought is being given to how to sustain **continuity beyond 2023** when the project's funding ends. This includes responding to a clear interest and need for social enterprises relating to natural resources, and collaboration with other organisations on nature restoration projects to engage more stakeholders and restore more habitats beyond the existing project boundaries.

The team has also devised comprehensive documents to identify what it wishes to do beyond the bare numbers collected to meet the funding indicators and to apply the principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. These **broader aims** have been carefully thought through, including the **values** driving them, how the aims will be delivered and what further data needs collecting to best serve **resilience** of the land and the communities involved. GBC has either exceeded or largely **met its targets for Year 1** and has fulfilled numerous services not specified by the numbers. GBC is consistently showing their ability to **adapt** in challenging times, whilst **working together** with local communities at the pace and scale that is appropriate.

Evaluation of Funding Indicators

Funding Indicators	Mar-Sep 2020	Oct 2020 - Feb 2021	Year 1 projection	Cumulative actual total
Number of cooperation operations supported	1	1	1	2
Number of jobs created	2	N/A	2	2
Number of jobs safeguarded	1	N/A	1	1
Number of participants in training	4	42	10	46
Number of training days	3	4	4	7
Total public expenditure for training/skills (£)	£550	£2000	£2,000	£2550
Number of networks established	1	1	1	2
Number of stakeholders ¹ engaged	261	387	100	648
Number of actions to utilise resources for health benefit	4	2	15	6
Area of woodland "supported" (ha)	0	10.5	1	10.5

- ~ Numbers of stakeholders far exceeds the projection for Year 1.
- ~ Numbers of participants in training is 4 x projected.
- ~ Area of woodland "supported" is 10 x projected.
- ~ Actions for health benefit less than half projected.
- ~ Expenditure within budget.
- ~ All other indicators on target.

1. A stakeholder is defined as 'organisations and individuals who have benefited from GBC.'

Landscape Connections Summary

This table shows projected activity for Year 1 and actual areas of landscape interventions that have taken place. A number of landscape connections' projects are in development; shortfall has been rolled over into Year 2 (2021/2022), some of which will be completed by the end of March 2021. These interventions require considerable engagement, building of relationships and planning. Effort has been put into essential groundwork such as, developing desktop study pro formas; working with ecologists and county recorders to share data; and for citizen science activities. This effort is now bearing fruit as the systems to survey sites and integrate GBC aims with land owners' and site managers' priorities is resulting in practical work on the ground.

Landscape Connection Activity Type	Projected 2020/21	Actual 2020/21	Detail
Plant new hedgerow (km)	1.3	0.82	Fron fedw - 0.21km, Dyffryn - 0.34km, Penlan Uchaf 0.27
Manage existing hedgerow (km)	1.0	0.07	Dyffryn
Plant woodland/orchard (acre)	1.6	1.27	Cilgerran Fruit & Nuts
Manage existing woodland/orchard (acre)	3.3	10.5	Frenni Fawr Oaks this has been recorded as 'woodland supported' in funding indicators
Manage meadowland/field margin, including heaths and commons (acre)	0.8	0	
Pond and river systems	N/A	N/A	CLEAN (Afon Nyfer)

Further detail relating to the above projects can be found on the GBC website and below in the case studies. All the landscape connections work has been evaluated to see how it meets the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources principles, which are the underlying purpose of funding GBC. Similarly, all activity has been assessed against the broader aims devised by the GBC team itself to ensure good quality work. These analyses are recorded in tables towards the end of this report.

Community Connections Summary

This table shows projected activity for Year 1, actual projects and events delivered, and numbers of stakeholders involved. A significant number of activities have been cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Skilful adaptations of projects and events in development have been achieved; and a number of relevant activities are in process. In this context, the shortfall compared to projected activity is of no concern. The detailed evaluations of the GBC team and from attendees is strong testament to the quality of outcomes from activity delivered. Further analyses of outcomes are available in tables near the end of this report.

Community Connection Activity Type	Adjusted Projection 2020 / 21	Activity Delivered 2020/21	Detail	Attendee / Stakeholders Numbers
Project Launch	1	0		
Exhibitions / Conferences / Heritage Open Days	1	1	Community Woodland - 'Local woods for local people' film	192
Nature walks/explorations	6	3	Hermon, Boncath & Tegryn Nature Walks	20
Land management skills training	6	4	Tree Seed collection / propagation	18
			Woodland enterprise - Coppicewood	9
			Bug Farm visit & chat with Dr Beynon	4
			Community woodland management - trip to Longwood	15
Land survey walks / talks	4	3	Ecology training	3
			Garej Bugs Day	25
			Frenni Fawr Woodland - Citizen Science	19
Food collection/processing training	4	3	Apple Juicing Events: Brynberian St Dogmaels Hermon	28 71 31
Well-being activities	4	3	Helping Halls Covid Plant Giveaway - Boncath, Tegryn & Hermon	100
Total stakeholders / attendees				387

Case Study: St Dogmaels Apple Juicing Event

This event was one of three held in Autumn 2020, the other two being in Brynberian and Hermon. The St Dogmaels day stands out as it had more than double the participants than the other villages and is uniquely linked to a previous, successful project, The People's Orchard, which had notable outcomes itself. However, it is worth pointing out that the three events as a totality had benefits of extending skills and knowledge to the three communities across the project area and generated valuable connections. The other juicing events also held special meaning for the people that came along, such as the man who came with his daughters on the Brynberian day and raised a glass of juice to his dad who planted the trees.

Juicing equipment was borrowed, previously purchased by The People's Orchard project and people invited to bring their apples and empty containers for juice. With careful risk assessment, the event was able to go ahead despite COVID restrictions. The event was supported by volunteers, and Martin Hayes, an apple expert was on hand to identify varieties and give general advice. Apple juicing days are popular across Pembrokeshire, and with 71 people attending the St Dogmaels event, it is clear there is still much demand for this service. The combination of a shredder and press allowed the queues to move quickly; and people were pleased to take home their own juice, rather than a mix of everyone's apples.

'Food processing and collection events' are part of GBC's remit, and meet the SMNR principles, namely, working together, engaging the public, and understanding the benefits of natural resources. This case study aims to bring those terms to life as the event stimulated deep responses and feelings from those that came along. In large part this was due to the connection it provided to the hugely popular People's Orchard project, enabling the work that they had done to continue and develop. This event reinforced, or brought back to life, the relationship the villagers had cultivated with each other, a sense of place and the heritage of both St Dogmaels and the apple trees that sit within the local landscape. During the day, it was common to hear people talk of the detailed knowledge they had gained of apple varieties, local micro climates, and ways to store and process fruit.



Summary of Outcomes:

- Built on previous community success and purchasing of equipment, extending that value.
- Juicing service free and made more widely available.
- Enhanced community interest in apple trees.
- Opened up conversations and sharing of expertise about biodiversity benefits, tree planting, orchard management, food processing and many other topics.
- Provided opportunity for volunteering and for the community to come together in a celebratory atmosphere of the abundance of their harvest.
- Large quantities of fruit got juiced, adding value and storage potential of the harvest.
- Generated discussion about long term sustainability of the service, dependence on grant funding and potential for a social enterprise, such as the [Trust Juice](#) model.
- Created wider connections and a training opportunity for Naturewise forest garden.

More than 20 people formally gave feedback, expressing gratitude for the event, that as a result of it they felt useful and connected and had learnt more about local heritage and apples of course! Many people stayed a long time, some came back with more fruit, others came along to the next event in Hermon. The event facilitated sharing technical knowledge, created social connection and feelings of wellbeing, grounded in landscape and place, as well as producing a large quantity of natural, fresh apple juice. This combination may be unusual, though GBC has a particular talent for creating such synergy.



Case Study: Fronfedw – Landscape Connection site

Fron fedw is a smallholding comprising of 18 acres in the village of Tegryn. The property is home to a mosaic of scrub and marshy grassland, currently grazed and has been thoughtfully planted with 2 acres of mixed woodland coppice. Fron fedw is adjacent to biodiverse habitats and has the potential for interventions to support further connectivity and enhancing ecosystem resilience. The desktop and field studies carried out by GBC evoke a strong sense of the bats, birds and insects that share this place. An agreement between GBC and the landowners has been made, including careful consideration of the owners' aims of a mixed, biodiverse smallholding, opportunities to enhance the landscape, and to link with adjacent ecosystems. Relevant statutory and advisory documents were consulted such as the 'Pembrokeshire Landscape Character Assessment.'

Summary of Outcomes:

- Enhancing wildlife corridors through 211m of hedgerow restoration with local provenance trees, including organising a work party to implement.
- Identifying niches and improvement to enhance biodiversity through habitat creation for protected and priority species, such as adders, peregrine falcons and bats.
- Facilitating design and implementation of catchment ponds to reduce run-off and enhance marsh habitat; including relevant planning permissions support.
- Opening site to the local community through potential bat walks with Pembrokeshire National Park.
- Signposting to relevant organisations, advice and information to support meadows, integrating livestock and orchards and other diversification.
- Pasture management training organised for June 2021 with grassland experts.
- Linkage to other initiatives nearby such as Frenni Fach commons conversation.



This project illustrates a high level of synthesis, connecting individuals, landscape and community. This is seen in the attention to detail of wider landscape integration with the owners' own aspirations. The flexibility of GBC to work with private properties as well as networks, community groups and public bodies leads to a high level of integration of ideas and action that works for the individual as well as the wider bioregion.

Notably, the hard work at the start of year 1 to devise pro formas for desktop and field studies for sites show a really detailed picture of the ecology and people of Fron fedw. This enabled efficient communication and expertise sharing within the team, demonstrating GBC systems work well. The design process used is also readily scalable and replicable for other sites to make recommendations which are not necessarily GBC interventions.

This project weaves robust empirical analysis with sensitivity to the needs of the smallest insect, protecting adder sized sunbathing spots and peregrine falcon look outs, up to the effect interventions might have on regional water catchment systems.

"All the GBC team members we've worked with and encountered have been very professional, informative and helpful to our goals. The process conducted by Louise was a good balance of site visit, consultation with us and desktop study....We both hope there are more opportunities to work with GBC." Paul and Dorothy Holland, Fron fedw

Case study: Collaboration with Frenni Fawr Research Group (FFRG)

Collaboration with existing groups and networks is a priority for GBC, to amplify the benefits of sharing knowledge, best practice and cross pollination of ideas and activity. Working with the Frenni Fawr Research Group (FFRG) provides ample opportunities with diverse benefits that meet the GBC mandate. FFRG is a group of like-minded environmental experts, working to ensure Frenni Fawr's upland oak woodland is conserved and protected. Frenni Fawr is an iconic feature in the landscape of North East Pembrokeshire, rising to 395 metres above sea level, with the highest semi-natural woodland in the county. As befits an intriguing ecology, the hill is also rich in cultural mythology. The ancient woodland characteristics, unusual growth forms, and differing age classes, make this wood a unique and interesting habitat for study.

In Autumn 2020 GBC began working with FFRG and held a citizen science activity in conjunction with the University of Aberystwyth, to measure different variables across the oak woodland. 19 people collected oak leaves and acorns from the woodland in a quest to answer the question "In the absence of acorns, do these trees clone themselves to regenerate?" Feedback from participants was positive on the themes of wonder at the natural environment; being outside and connecting with their community; personal observation of the ecology; pleasure in learning a scientific methodology and in contributing to academic knowledge for a practical benefit to a treasured local place.

In November 2020, some of the original citizen scientists and many more, congregated at [Scolton Manor](#) Tree Nursery. Tree expert and propagation specialist, Simon Richards, taught the group how to propagate the acorns collected on the Frenni Fawr and from other oak trees in the GBC project area.

Summary of Outcomes:

- Citizen science events collected relevant data through a variety of sampling methods. The results of which will help the FFRG put forward a strong case to achieve 'Ancient Woodland' classification for Frenni Fawr.
- Acorns from the site are being propagated in the tree nursery at Scolton Manor, grown for two years, to be transplanted as saplings to the Frenni Fawr to connect the woodland with the wider habitat network.
- Linking the community with academic and scientific research, cultivating a sense of place and meaning for participants with potential for real ecosystem benefits.
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination of existing research produced by Jon Hudson (a member of the group) to local residents and enthusiasts. The collaboration has also led another local expert, Steve Potter, to share his related research with GBC and conduct a further leaf sampling study with them.
- Participants feedback included feelings of joy, connection and meaning; a new awareness of diversity in a familiar place; 'rewilding ourselves'; a positive contribution to ecology; a yearning to return; and enchantment.
- Opportunities to expand on activities in the future and ongoing involvement, such as fungal and soil sampling in the oak woodland; visiting the lab in Aberystwyth to see the results of


the DNA testing from the oak leaf samples; and wellbeing events inspired by the landscape and activities above.












The activities generated so far through collaboration with the FFRG was described by a Cwm Arian director 'as the sweet spot the GBC project aims to achieve', connecting community, landscape, and science. The combined efforts of the citizen scientists and FFRG may lead to tangible results, such as conservation status for the Frenni Fawr woodland and local provenance saplings to connect the adjacent fragile habitats. The data collected may lead to policy changes or influence scientific research. However, the effect on individual participants and the magic of meeting as a community in service to their local landscape shines out from the detailed records kept by GBC. Combining practical and analytical tasks with a sense of place and stewardship brought the imaginations and experience together of the people involved. This collaboration is reawakening indigenous knowledge and an intimate relationship between a community and its ecosystems, which surely leads us somewhere worth going.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)










The Welsh Government Environment Act recognises that natural resources are some of Wales' most important assets. It contains policy frameworks to ensure that SMNR is a core consideration in decision making (Section 4 of the Environment Act). The principles of SMNR, listed below, are to help guide and underpin the way SMNR should be interpreted to ensure a consistent approach across Wales.

Adaptable	
	A need to plan, monitor, review and change future work in light of new evidence and understanding.
Scale	
	Decisions and actions will need to be taken at national, regional or local levels to deliver the best outcomes.
Working together	
	Everyone in Wales is a stakeholder in the natural environment and hence, to ensure best management of natural resources, all views need to be considered.
Engaging with the public	
	Ensure that the public has opportunity to give its opinion on how natural resources are managed, at all stages of the decision making process.
Evidence	
	An improved evidence base is needed to understand Wales' natural resources to allow for better management.
Understanding all of the benefits received from natural resources	
	The whole of Wales needs to understand the economic, social, cultural and environmental value of natural resources, including how they can benefit future generations.
Long term	
	Impacts of decisions need to be considered not only in the short term but also in the long term.
Prevention	
	Take steps to prevent damage to Welsh ecosystems.
Resilience	
	To be able to deal with increased demands and pressures, such as climate change, Welsh ecosystems need to be healthy. Decisions need to be considered in terms of providing long term benefits.
















SMNR Principles met by GBC Activity

<p>X = directly meets principle</p> <p>x = contributes to principle</p>	Adaptable	Scale	Working together	Engaging	Evidence	Understanding	Long term	Prevention	Resilience
									
Project Management									
Steering Group established	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Adaptation to COVID restrictions	x	x	x	x	x				
Networks and Collaboration	x	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x
Future of GBC post 2023	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	X
Staff training	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Landscape Projects									
Groundwork (pro formas etc.)	x	x	x	x	X	X	X	x	X
Coed Dulas		x	x	X	x	x	x	X	X
INNS (Dulas) balsam control		x			x			x	x
Frenni Fawr Research Group	x	x	X	X	X	x	x	X	X
Blaen Nevern				X					
Penlan Uchaf		x	X			x	X	X	X
Frenni Fach	x	x	X	X	X	x	x	X	X
Tegryn Trees		X	X	X		X	x		X
Dyffryn Cefnfaes		x	X			x	X	X	X
Fron Fedw	x	x	X	X	x	x	X	X	X

<p>X = directly meets principle</p> <p>x = contributes to principle</p>	Adaptable	Scale	Working together	Engaging	Evidence	Understanding	Long term	Prevention	Resilience
Hermon Community Woodland Group	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
CLEAN (Afon Nyfer) – Phase 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cilgerran Fruit and Nuts	x	X	X	X		X	x		x
Community Events									
Outreach (Blogs, publicity etc.)		x				X		x	x
Helping Halls Plant Giveaways	x	x							
Nature Walks / Explorations Hermon, Boncath & Tegryn				X	x	X	x	X	x
Garej y Sgwar Bugs Day				X		X		x	X
Frenni Fawr Woodland - Citizen Science	x	x		X	X	X	x	X	X
Scolton Tree Seed collection / propagation	x			X	X	X	x	x	X
Apple Juicing Events: Brynberian St Dogmaels Hermon	x	x		X	x	X		x	x

X = directly meets principle x = contributes to principle	Adaptable	Scale	Working together	Engaging	Evidence	Understanding	Long term	Prevention	Resilience
									
Woodland enterprise - Coppicewood				X	x	X	x	x	X
Community Woodland – 'Local woods for local people' film				X		X			X
Community woodland management - trip to Longwood				X	x	X	x	X	x
Ecology training	x	x	x	x	X	x	X	X	X
Bug Farm visit & chat with Dr Beynon		x				x			
















Broader Aims

1. Knowledge Sharing and Learning Aims:		
	1.1	All relevant knowledge and evidence is shared at all levels, in order to replicate successes elsewhere, including how challenges have been met and pitfalls to be avoided.
	1.2	Know whether engaged people have a 'holistic' understanding of how natural resources can benefit people whilst also being protected.
	1.3	Know whether GBC participants understand how their land or community can benefit from ecosystem services.
2. Environmental Aims:		
	2.1	Know whether activity has improved the resilience and diversity of ecosystems.
	2.2	Record ecological data (pre and post intervention), training days and numbers of participants.
	2.3	Record uptake and effect of 'signposting' to farms, landowners, and groups regards diversifying land use, increasing biodiversity, benefits of ecosystem services and accessing GBC documentation regarding avoiding ecological damage.
3. Economic Aims:		
	3.1	Stimulation and / or improvement of economic resilience e.g. sustained, improved or contributed to new business activity and access to markets.
	3.2	Signposting landowners and groups to the benefits of ecosystem services.
4. Social, Health and Wellbeing Aims:		
	4.1	Know whether behaviours have changed. E.g. lifestyle and business choices that increase resource efficiency; use of ecosystem services; and protect nature.
	4.2	Participants feel fit; useful; and connected following participation in GBC activity.
	4.3	Participants understand more about local heritage and the place they live.
	4.4	Participants learnt a new skill or strengthened an existing one.
5. Adaptation and Response -Ability Aims:		
	5.1	Monitor the risks that might arise to change the direction or delivery methods.
	5.2	GBC's ability to adapt when necessary; including suitability of project activities and whether on-site interventions are suitable for the future.
6. Future and Continuity of GBC post 2023		
	6.1	Identify opportunities to deliver GBC intentions in and beyond our geographical area post 2023.

Broader Aims met by GBC Activity
















X = directly meets aim

x = contributes to aim

	Knowledge Sharing and Learning			Environmental			Economic		Social, Health and Wellbeing				Adaptation and Response -Ability		Future and Continuity
	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.1
															
Project Management															
Steering Group established	x	x			x			x			x	x	X	X	X
Adaptation to COVID										x	x	x	X	X	
Networks and Collaboration	X	x	X	x	X	X	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	X
Future of GBC post 2023	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	X	X
Landscape Projects															
Groundwork (pro formas etc.)	x	x	x	X	X	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	X	X
Coed Dulas	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	X	X	x
INNS on the Dulas, Balsam Control	x	x	x	x	x	x		X	x			x	x	x	x
Frenni Fawr Research Group	X	X	X	X	X	X	x		x	X	X	X	x	X	X
















X = directly meets aim

x = contributes to aim

	Knowledge Sharing and Learning			Environmental			Economic		Social, Health and Wellbeing				Adaptation and Response -Ability		Future and Continuity
	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.1
															
Frenni Fach	X	x	x	x				x	x	x	x				
Tegryn Trees		x	x	x							x			x	x
Penlan Uchaf				X				X	X				X		
Dyffryn Cefnfaes	X	x	x			X		X	x	X	x				
Fron Fedw	X	x	x			X		X	x	X	X				
Hermon Community Woodland Group	x			x	x			X	x	X	X	x			
CLEAN (Afon Nyfer) Phase 1	X	x	x	x	x		x	X	x	x		X	x	x	X
Cilgerran Fruit and Nuts	X	x		x				x		X	x	x	x	x	x
Community Events															
Outreach (Blogs, publicity etc.)	x		x			x					X	x	x	X	
















X = directly meets aim

x = contributes to aim

	Knowledge Sharing and Learning			Environmental			Economic		Social, Health and Wellbeing				Adaptation and Response -Ability		Future and Continuity
	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.1
															
Helping Halls Plant Giveaways Boncath, Tegryn & Hermon	x				x	x				X			x	X	x
Nature Walks Hermon, Boncath & Tegryn	x	x						X	x	X	X	x	X	X	
Garej y Sgwar Bugs Day		x	x					x		x	X	X		x	
Frenni Fawr Woodland - Citizen Science	X		x		x			X		X	X	X		x	x
Scolton Tree Seed collection / propagation	x				x	x		x		x	x	X			x
Apple Juicing Events: Hermon Brynberian St Dogmaels			X		x		x		x	X	X	X		x	X
Woodland enterprise - Coppicewood	x		x		x			X		X	X	X			x

X = directly meets aim

x = contributes to aim

	Knowledge Sharing and Learning			Environmental			Economic		Social, Health and Wellbeing				Adaptation and Response -Ability		Future and Continuity
	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.2	6.1
															
Community Woodland - 'Local woods for local people' film	X				x	x		X		X	X				x
Community Woodland management - trip to Longwood	x		x		x			X		X	X				x
Ecology training	X	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x			X	x	x	x
Bug Farm visit & chat with Dr Beynon		x	x		x									x	

Conclusion and Recommendations

GBC has shown creativity, flexibility and diligence in its first year under the extraordinary constraints of COVID restrictions. The case studies show themes that resonate through all of the projects' work and are the main finding of this evaluation:

- Ability to move fluently between micro and macro scale analysis and action; from the needs of individual stakeholders and site specific species, to regional and global considerations.
- A systems approach, giving attention to many factors and the relationships between them. This includes consideration of people's psychological wellbeing and sense of local heritage and place; long and short term impacts for ecosystems; potential for economic opportunities; consultation of all involved; and contribution to science and policy.
- Tangible outputs that range from practical landscape restoration, wellbeing and community connections to catalysing collaboration and facilitating sustainable local food processing events.

Project activity is aligned with the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and is well on target, meeting the funding indicator targets and GBC's internal projected activity goals and broader aims. The project also meets the Welsh Government Sustainable Management Scheme cross-cutting themes: providing equality of opportunity, being open to anyone who wishes to be involved; mindful of sustainable development in the planning and execution of all its activity, promoting ecological and community cohesion; and attention has been given to delivering activities with respect to the Welsh language.

Essential groundwork has been laid for every aspect of the GBC aims, especially in relation to strengthening existing relationships and community connection, establishing new networks and developing efficient processes and frameworks. Over 600 stakeholders have received advice, signposting or direct support and benefit from GBC activity. This evaluation is confident in GBC to deliver high quality work, and to adapt and respond to challenges, in a way that is of great benefit to local communities and landscape.

~

The recommendations below are drawn from the views and analysis of the GBC team and volunteers.



Recommendations

- Consider building on the success of the apple juicing events to ensure the service is available in the long term and free from dependence on grant funding, for example through developing GBC's 'Fruit and Bounty' idea. This is in the context of the potential for the subtler landscape and community benefits beyond the harvest on the day that food processing events have for long term resilience.
- Secure match funding to maximise use of the Sustainable Management Scheme budget. Explore additional funding for more flexibility in activities for newly identified needs, such as supporting social enterprise, and for opportunities that are arising from GBC networks, such as GBC's 'Heath and Hedgerow' co-operative idea.
- Continue to manage the complexity and challenge of the scope of this project with appropriate support and planning ahead. Maintain momentum by keeping a focus on devising activity the team feel is most worthwhile. Make the most of the internal GBC systems to optimise the overall resources available to implement ideas, such as the Process Flowchart.



References

CARE SMS Application form

Progress Report for Funders (June 2020)

Internal documents:

Project and events records

Budget / funding indicator spreadsheets

Future of GBC notes

Events Evaluations

Community Woodland Conference plans and survey

Green Recovery Task Group proposal

Desktop / Field study pro formas

Steering group notes / reports / minutes

Monitoring and evaluation working documents

Publicity and outreach resources:

Website / blogs / Facebook page / newsletter / leaflet

Interviews with case study stakeholders and GBC volunteers