

Case Study – Cradoc Golf Club

Introduction

Brecknock Wildlife Trust (now WTSWW) had previously worked with Cradoc Golf Club regarding habitat for Great Crested Newts. The club was approached, as a follow up, and were very keen to encourage more biodiversity on their site. The current directors were working towards OnCourse Accreditation which including a section on environmental management and biodiversity. The aims identified were to establish an example wildflower area, clear overgrown laurel and interpretation to 'educate' club members and visiting players of the wildlife value of the course grounds.

The Project

- Written advice including map identifying potential areas for work
- Provided wildflower plugs and bulbs, wildflower seed, 2 apple trees
- Above were planted with volunteers from Cradoc Golf Club and Brecon Local Group
- Employed contractors to cut and chip overgrown laurel
- Replant with native broadleaf trees by volunteers
- Sampled hill for waxcaps and other grassland fungi using eDNA analysis
- Designed and purchased interpretation signs about Great Crested Newts and Penoyre Wood

Project Outputs

- 70 sq m sown with wildflower seed & planted with wildflower plugs.
- 2 apple trees planted by established tree and under planted with 150 bulbs (50 each of wild daffodils, snowdrops and bluebells).
- 11 volunteers involved with planting.
- Appx 200 sq m woodland cleared of invasive non-native laurel.
- Replanted with 60 native broadleaf whips.
- 2 interpretation signs mounted in hardwood frame.
- 30 species of grassland fungi were identified, of which 7 were waxcaps. 6 species of grassland fungi were classed as vulnerable, 3 of these were waxcap species.



Pink Waxcap (*Porpolomopsis calyptriformis*) classed as vulnerable

Project Outcomes

- Invasive non-native laurel removed from woodland habitat .
- Wildflower area created as educational tool for club members to understand that the golf course can have space for wildlife.
- Group now have key skills and knowledge to create additional wildflower areas in the future and to manage the woodland.
- Interpretation signs will enable club members, visiting players and residents of Penoyre House to learn about Great Crested Newts and understand why the woodland has been managed in the way that it has.
- The waxcap eDNA report provided shows the value of the hill as a rare habitat. Their current management appears to be working.
- Partnership with WTSWW to engage club members with the wildlife on their course with future events.



Planting wildflower plugs



Planting apple trees