



BEAUFORT HILL PONDS & WOODLANDS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

49 Highlands Road, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale. NP23 5RG
E-mail - john.hillier@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk
Web - www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk

Chairperson – David White

Liz Hancocks
Ecologist
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Wednesday, 30 October 2019

RE: Designating Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a Local Nature Reserve

Dear Liz,

We would like to show our support regarding the proposed designation of Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a Local Nature Reserve.

The Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society was formed in March 2005 in response to the threatened loss of the Beaufort Ponds after the closure of the local steelworks. The aims of the Society were to help maintain and improve the ponds and woodlands and to preserve the environment for future generations. The site comprises of two man made ponds and several natural ‘scrapes’ with a community woodland to the west and north-west. A car parking area overlooking the ponds aims to encourage visitors from further afield and make it easier for people with disabilities to visit the woodland; the old informal pathway network has been upgraded and resurfaced linking up much of the Woodlands. A bridge with the inclusion of an “all ability” circular path was constructed around the Upper Boat Pond, giving good access not only to walkers, but also to wheelchair and pushchair users. This pathway links up with a network of other pathways throughout the Woodlands site. The main ethos of the society is to reduce feelings of social exclusion by providing opportunities for social and recreational activities and by fostering well-being and social cohesion through community events and celebrations.

The Society has developed access to the area through several access points and local children had designed the gateway artwork, and these were so successful the themes were continued throughout the site. Site interpretation concentrates on the flora, fauna and industrial heritage of the site. The society is particularly pleased with the level of community involvement and usage of the site and considers the amount of volunteer involvement as important both for the project and for the individuals involved. The involvement of local children in the design of the artwork throughout the site has encouraged them to take pride in their work and to take ‘ownership’ of the site. Their involvement in the early stages of planning and development has helped to lessen anti-social behaviour on the site and has resulted in greatly increased use of the site by families. This highlights the importance of getting children involved in projects at the early stages and encouraging them to stay involved through providing appropriate opportunities.

Designating Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a local nature reserve will ensure that the community of Beaufort Hill and the surrounding areas will be able to continue to appreciate the flora and fauna knowing that they will be protected for the future. Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society therefore supports an application for the site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Regards

John Hillier – Secretary



Liz Hancocks
Ecologist
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Seddon House
Dingestow
Monmouth
NP25 4DY
Tel: 01600 740600

Re: Designating Central Valley as a Local Nature Reserve

Dear Liz,

Thank you for contacting Gwent Wildlife Trust regarding the proposed designation of Central Valley as a Local Nature Reserve.

Gwent Wildlife Trust has been managing Central Valley Reserve for people and wildlife, on behalf of Blaenau Gwent Council, since 2015. Although a relatively new reserve, it contains a variety of habitats including grassland, scrub, woodland, ponds and reedbeds, which all support a wide range of species. A recent bioblitz of the site recorded more than 200 different species on just one day. We know that the site is used by toads, slow worm and lizards, and barn owls and kestrels hunt over the reserve. Almost every year a new plant species is identified by our reserve officer, and during the spring and summer it is alive with bees and butterflies, supporting bilberry bumblebees as well as a shrill carder bee.

The site is an urban oasis within Ebbw Vale, enjoyed regularly by locals as a walking route between main amenities. Our Education and Reserve Officers also use the site as an educational resource, supporting school, college and adult learners' groups through the year to explore and learn more about the habitats and species on site. It is ideally situated for this, being nearly adjacent to our office and classroom – the Environmental Resource Centre, on Steelworks Road.

The Trust has been managing the site for wildlife for four years, rotationally cutting areas of grassland on an annual basis, thinning out reedbeds as required and creating feature dry stone walls. Future work we would like to do includes repairing the boundary dry stone walls and laying some of the boundary hedges. We have also been partners within the Ebbw Fawr Trail project, led by Blaenau Gwent Council, and through this we have been able to install interpretation panels and artwork on site, to make it more informative and appealing to the people who enjoy using it.

Designating Central Valley as a local nature reserve will ensure that the habitats and species here remain protected for the future, as well as recognising its value to the people of Ebbw Vale and the surrounding areas. We wholeheartedly support its declaration as an LNR.

With best wishes,



Natalie Waller, Living Landscape Manager, Eastern Valleys
nwaller@gwentwildlife.org





Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group

Liz Hancocks
Ecologist
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Secretary:
Kay Burridge
30A Dinas Baglan Rd
Baglan
SA12 8AE

Re: Designating Parc Bryn Bach as a Local Nature Reserve

Dear Liz,

Thank you for contacting Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group regarding the proposed designation of Parc Bryn Bach as a Local Nature Reserve.

Designating Parc Bryn Bach as a local nature reserve will ensure that the habitats and species here remain protected for the future, as well as recognising its value to the people of Tredegar and the surrounding areas. We wholeheartedly support its declaration as an LNR.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Burridge".

Kay Burridge
Secretary Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group



Web: www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk
E-Mail: info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk

Sirhowy Valley Woodlands
Roseland
Dukestown Road
Tredegar
Blaenau Gwent
NP22 4RE

Liz Hancocks

Borough ecologist

BGBC

29/10/19

Hi Liz

This is to confirm our support for the designation of LNR for Sirhowy Hill Woodlands a 70 hectare site of mixed woodland, ponds and grasslands situated between Ebbw vale and Tredegar, which our organisation manages in conjunction with BGBC.

Yours sincerely

Susy Arnold

Company Secretary and director of SIRHOWY HILL WOODLANDS CIC
(formerly known as Sirhowy valley woodlands paperwork website etc in process of name change)



Web: www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk
E-Mail: info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk

Sirhowy Valley Woodlands
Thomas Ellis Way
Tredegar
Blaenau Gwent
NP22 4QF

