

CARMARTHENSHIRE

In identifying woodlands under this scoping study for Carmarthenshire GI improvements, it is all too easy to fall foul of the town-centric trend for service provision given significant urban deprivation. Llanelli with a population of 39,000 would be an easy starting point. But

social, economic and personal needs are often the biggest barrier to engagement with nature, rather than distance from accessible green space. For example, some people whose homes can literally back onto wonderful green spaces such as the Brecon beacons, may not benefit from green space however near until they *engage* with an activity or social network that literally opens their eyes to their local treasures.

Discussions with Cwmaman community development officer working with Coed Lleol on a GI project, and members of the LA, helped focus the issues. Every community will have access to different levels and categories of support and will not necessarily be easy to compare, but if there is a critical mass of support and uptake, then developing the nearby green spaces can be transformational in many ways. For many communities struggling to find a way into the challenging worlds of youth antisocial behaviour/drug problems for example, a green space can be the missing 'service' that finally enables someone to be turned around.

We can start a scoping project such as this – envisaging finding an appropriate woodland that can be improved for all-ability access in each county – but which woodlands get onto the final list of recommendations depends as much on the potential for a supportive surrounding CLUSTER MODEL as the actual woodland criteria we developed at the start of the pilot and included in section 3. Above.

CASE STUDY – proposed sites for further GI support

For that reason, in Carmarthen, to build on work already now underway – further development and support for the following group of green spaces is recommended. This would provide potential reach to a similar population size as a woodland in Llanelli. These proposed green spaces are already part of active engagement and support network within the communities of Aman Valley, Ammanford, Glanamman, Garnant, Betws, Pen Y Banc, and Hendy.

- **YNYS DAWELLA WOODS** (CCC) AMANFORD – CWM AMAN

Between Bryn Aman and Garnant – approx. 34 acres

- **GELLI WERDD** (CCC) Approx. 45 acres

Old Slag heap. Varied spaces, some steep areas. Access to a community centre.

- **PARC GOLWG YR AMAN** - Ammanford and Glanamman area.

Recreational park with excellent access, ample parking and supported by facilities available at the Cwmaman Bowls Pavilion and Ysgol y Bedol. Park can be closed for committed use for weekends/short periods should the need arise.

- **RIVERSIDE WALK WOODLANDS 1** – Glanamman to Ammanford

Woodlands approx. 50 acres with public ROW.

Access can be achieved via public ROW. Woodlands are owned by 2 local farms who can be approached to come on-board as private sector partners who can then benefit from the engagement of community volunteers to maintain currently unmaintained woodlands.. (Part of GI project (ENRAW) in Cwmaman area of Carmarthen. From April subject to 3-year funding bid). The Nearby RED KITE INN could provide a partnership win-win if it offered a facilities 'hub' for meeting up to run group sessions. Benefit post Covid for the pub and activity leaders.

RIVERSIDE WALK WOODLANDS 2 – Glanamman to Garnant

Woodland approx. 9.94 acres.

Mixed ownership between Cwmaman Town Council, Carmarthenshire County Council and private ownership. Access via public ROW. Ample parking at either West or East end of the parcel with potential for fixed asset development towards the West.



Riverside Walk Woodlands 1 – Glanamman to Ammanford

Riverside woodland under mixed ownership with little maintenance in place. Regular safety issues with windfall obstruction of riverside walk. Easily accessible on foot from 3 access points (West, South, East). Possible activities launch hub at the Red Kite Inn to the South. Possible site for new “super school” development in the large fields to the South. Medium length, easily difficulty, walk to Riverside Woodlands B, Parc Golwg yr Aman and the centre of Ammanford.



Riverside Walk Woodland 2 – Glanamman to Garnant

Narrow woodland space with excellent foot access through riverside walk pathways. Bisected by the Amman River. Short walk distance to local amenities at the Cwmaman Youth Resource Centre and Cwmaman Community Centre to the West. The

Cwmaman Bowls Pavilion and Ysgol Y Bedol Primary School to the East.



Gelli Werdd

Excellent access by foot with ample parking and access to facilities/amenities at the Cwmaman Community Centre. Land is steep but there are a number of flat “stands” within the boundary. Identified within Community Asset Feasibility Study, by

community members, as being a site of potential improvement. Large flat space towards the top of the space, before reaching established Larch woodland on steep terrain, which sits next to the existing footpaths. Potential site for roundhouse or

woodland schools type space.



Ynys Dawela Country Park

Good foot access initially then gravel, stone and soil paths throughout the park. Excellent potential for a woodland building shown within yellow square. Accessed by the communities of Glanamman, Garnant, Brynamman, GCG and Cwmgorse. South

boundary of the River Amman. Access by foot from South and East. Also, to the North via right of way off Llandeilo Road through farmland.

