#### 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.

These three green spaces have been grouped because an analysis of need against populations counted by wards has demonstrated that rather than focusing on a single woodland for further GI support near a centre of population such as Llanelli (39,000) – supporting **dispersed green spaces** along the Aman valley will reach the same numbers of people and benefit more from community support clusters already in place. Selecting a woodland because it is near a greater population would be understandable given feedback on transport barriers elsewhere. However, movement patterns in the Aman valley show that travel in either direction to Swansea or Carmarthen over greater distances than those in Llanelli would have to travel (ie. to woods) for culture or shopping is not in fact a barrier. Therefore, distance is less a barrier in this locality than an actual willingness to engage with green spaces.

Further there have already been Coed Lleol projects with the communities ie. in Parc Golwg Yr Aman which has resulted in very good feedback. The community development officer has years of experience in community development in both extreme urban settings and in UK and Wales, including youth and protected children. He confirms in this area there are supportive and engaged services such as a mental health hospital, GP surgery, and Drug & Alcohol support teams. Therefore, this is a readymade cluster project where further GI and project investment will be building further on the solid foundations achieved by Coed Lleol and other community engagement and the current GI project. This will further support resilience, and collaborative growth where Green Spaces can become a heart of community regeneration. [Rob Venus at Cwmaman Town Council]

### Additional Private Woodlands for engagement:



Cwmffrwd Farm - North of valley - approx. 41.7 acres



Woodland adjacent to Grenig Road, Glanamman, South side of valley – approx. 59.3 acres.