



Blaen Bran Community Woodland - Presentation for Torfaen Climate Advocates Group

Blaen Brân Community Wood



Title:

COED GWAUN-Y-'FFEIRIAD COMMUNITY TRUST WOODLAND PROJECT

Map Scale: 1:5000
Map Centre X: 327159
Map Centre Y: 197313

Drawing No.:
Drawn by: R Reid
Date: 13/08/04

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Getting started



- Approach to Cwmbran Community Council
- Approach from local school
- Opportunity from woodland owner
- Getting community support at a public meeting
- Becoming a Trust (help from TVA)
- Cydcoed funding - and becoming a company (2003/04)

People....



Why were we bothered ?...



Changes in attitude needed with community buy-in and a lot of hard work ahead

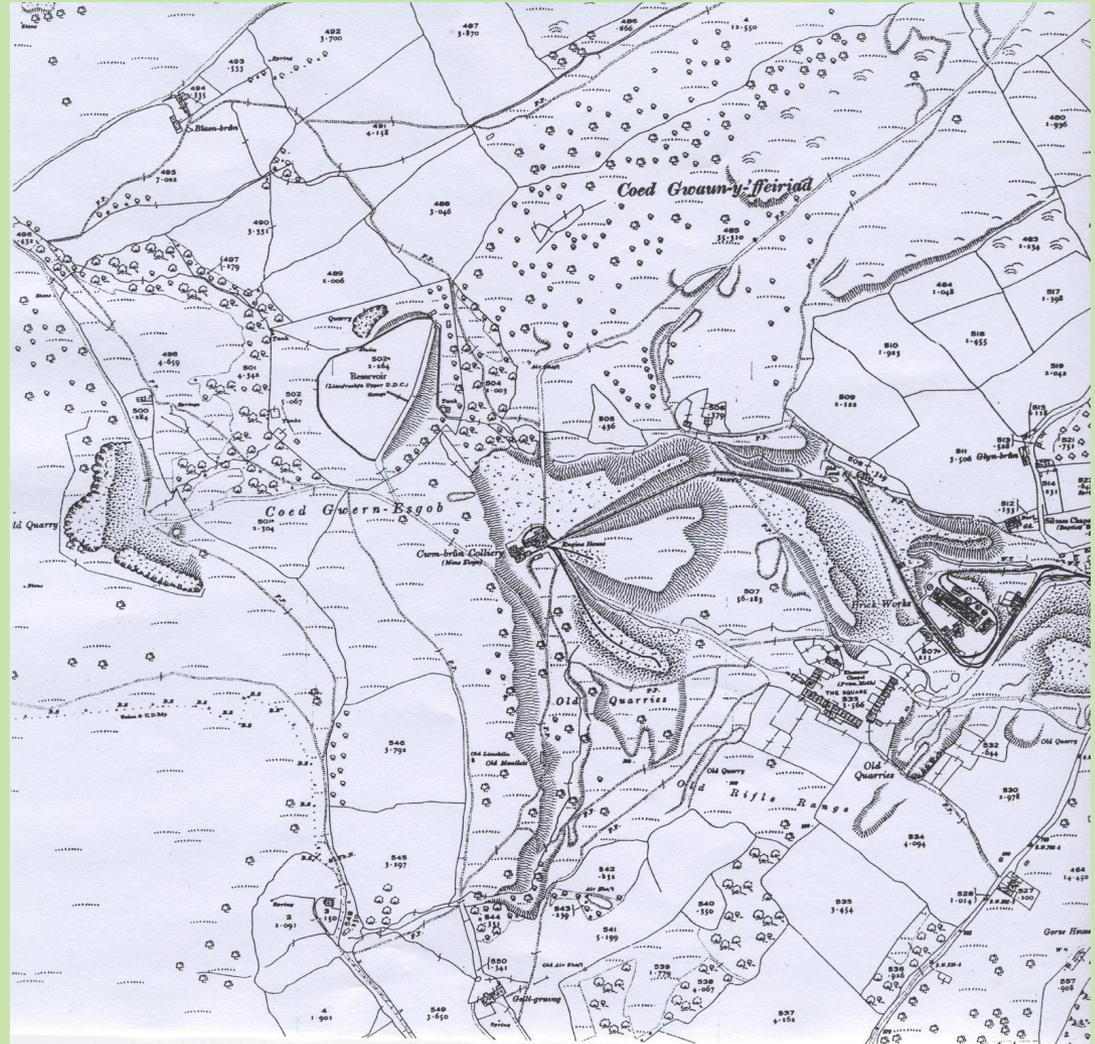


Why manage it ?

- To prevent development of the land – to protect our important green space
- We wanted a bigger say in our local wood and our environment
- To stop the illegal bikes, vandalism, fires and litter
- Without regular maintenance work woodlands deteriorate
- We value it socially, culturally and ecologically
- It's free to enjoy and benefit from
- For education, to learn about natural history
- It's a beautiful part of our landscape

History and Culture

- * History survey done - looking back at old records, by Bob Trett in 2005
- * First reference in 1452, with lease from Thomas ap Madoc Lloyd
- * Part of the Manor of Edlogan - under the Welsh lords of Caerleon. English control by 1278
- * Edlogan passed to Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII in late 1400's
- * Purchased from the Crown in 1558 by William Morgan of Llantarnam
- * 1766 Edlogan passes to John Hanbury
- * 1677 Manor survey - 300 acres of 'waste' (commons) below Mynydd Maen - where the tenants were free to graze cattle and could take "fire coals, lime coals, lime stones and tile stones" for their own use but not for sale.
- * In 1793 agreement to have a "Level Road" and to sink one shaft or pit in the wood



Industrial Revolution



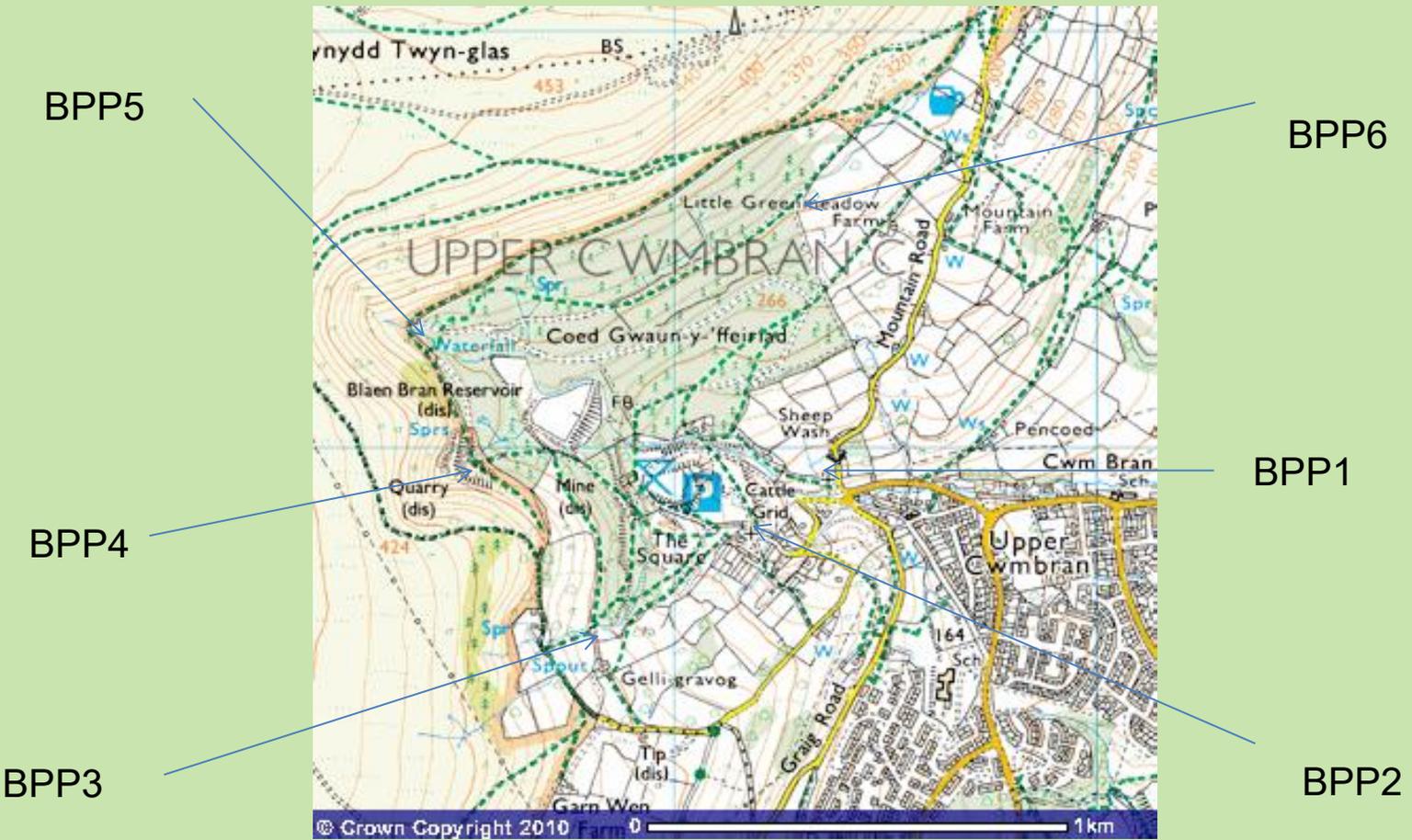
- * The Cwmbran Colliery/Mine Slope (Level 1) and the Porthmawr Colliery (Level 2) were opened in 1837 by R.J. Blewitt, just below the present Braen Bran Community Woodland.
- * Underground there was an extensive system of tunnels, including the “tunnel to Pontypool” shown on John Prujean’s map of 1843 and a deed map of 1854.
- * An iron mine existed on or close to the Community Woodland, and is shown on the map of iron-works and collieries made by John Prujean in 1843.
- * There are at least two filled-in rocky pits that may be “bell pits” sunk for mining maybe iron ore. “Bell pits” are called by that name because the bottom of the shaft was extended out during mining, and gave them a bell shape in section.
- * Quarries are evident close to and possibly in the Community Woodland. A Geological survey of 1858 states that mountain limestone was used for lime burning and for fluxing stones for iron furnaces.
- * The Lower Reservoir was built in 1884 and the Upper (Subsiding) Reservoir in 1930. The Water Board acquired the land on long term lease, and sub-let it to a tenant farmer, and in 1933 to the Forestry Commission for an afforestation programme.



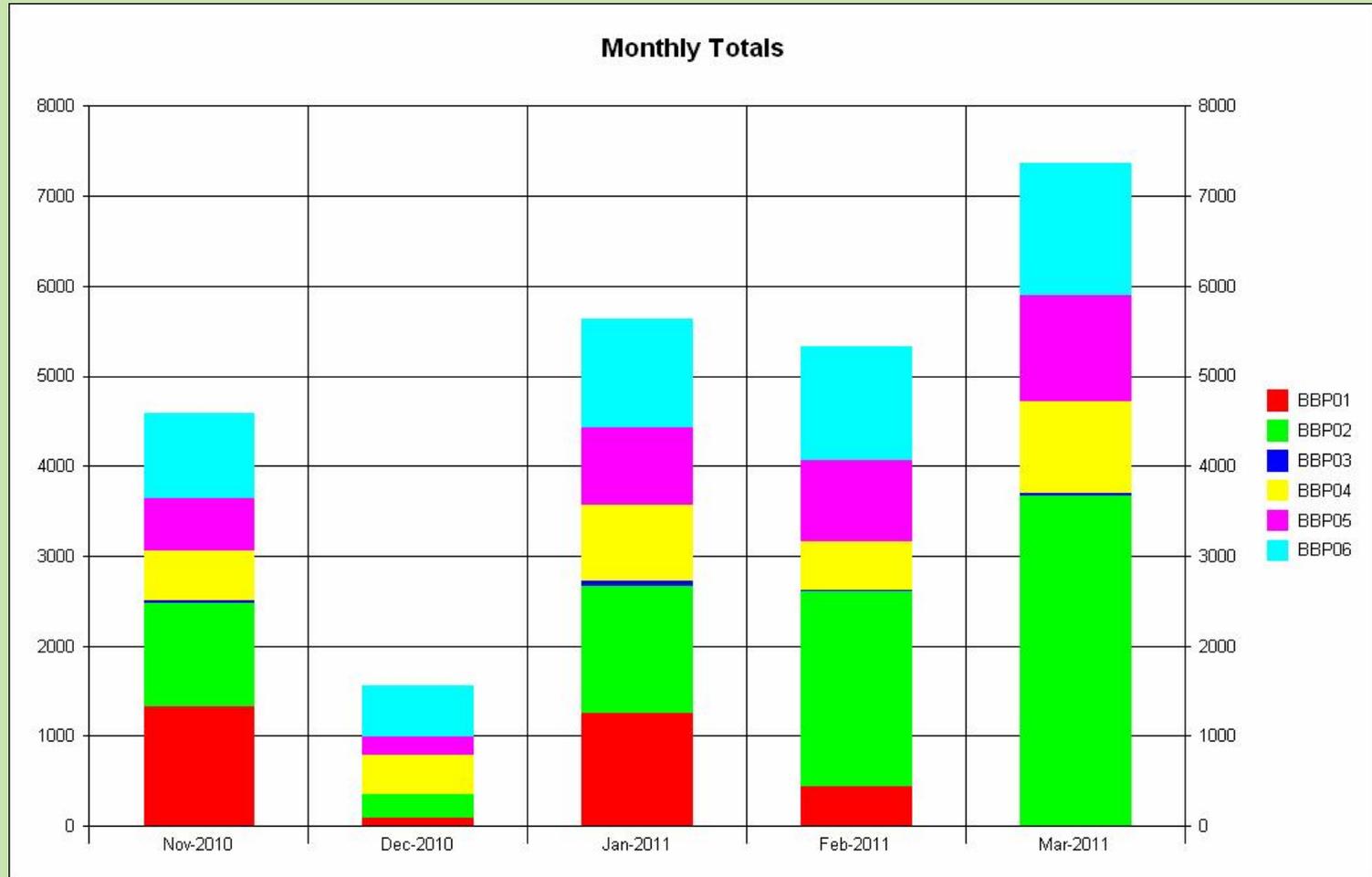
Improving Access



BBCW - Access and footfall



BBCW - Access and footfall



Activities and Events



Drystone walling



Horse logging



History walk



English Civil War
camp

Habitat development



Increasing biodiversity



Site surveys



Fungus	Common Name	Associate	Medium	Finder
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	blusher	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	soil	EW
<i>Diatrype disciformis</i>	beech bark spot	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	fallen dead branch	GFG
<i>Hypoxylon fragiforme</i>	beech wound wart	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	fallen dead branch	RE
<i>Hypomyces aurantius</i>	orange polypore mould	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	dead fruit body	GFG
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel woodwart	<i>Coriolus avellana</i>	fallen dead branch	GFG
<i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i>	Brittle cinder	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	fallen tree	RE
<i>Melampsora capraearum</i>	willow rust	<i>Salix caprea</i>	living leaves	GFG
<i>Phragmidium violaceum</i>	bramble rust	<i>Rubus fructicosa</i> agg.	living leaves	RE
<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	birch polypore	<i>Betula pendula</i>	fallen dead branch	GFG
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	oyster mushroom	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	cut log	WW
<i>Psathyrella candolleana</i>	pale brittle stem	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	stump	GFG
<i>Psathyrella multipedata</i>	clustered brittle stem	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	stump	EW
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	hairy curtain crust	<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>	fallen dead branch	GFG
<i>Suillus grevillei</i>	larch bolete	<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	soil	GFG
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	turkey tail	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Fallen dead branch	GFG

Links with Gwent Fungus Group (GFG), Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT), Ornithological groups, set of bird boxes put up in the wood

Working with schools



School activities



'My Tree, Our Forest' - Tree giveaway



WG project - from 'deep dive' into forestry - launch by Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Climate Change - Feb 2022

Tree Planting - Climate change



'Yolks for Oaks' planting - support from Yolk recruitment agency



Partnership working



Enjoy a visit to Blaen Bran Woodland



www.blaenbran.org.uk



Thank You

- Any questions?

