



John Muir Presentation

By Jude Rowland

“I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.”

— John Muir, *John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir*

The John Muir award is a nation wide award targeted at getting the younger generations to be more environmentally friendly. In my opinion the quote above holds great significance as it shows the wonders of our natural environment which is what the award is all about.





Discover a wild place

I feel as if this quote by John Muir himself is very important As personally I find this a very accurate description what can happen when you venture into the forest. This is something I experienced when we went to Ystrad coed..

“And into the forest
I go, to lose my
mind and find my
soul”

— John Muir

To get to grips with and understand the woodland from a more connotative view we explored around the site before cleaning it up. Odiously being careful as the weather was not perfect.

The wild place we discovered was Ytsrad coed. A woodland just in Johnstown which is situated on a hill.

It was special to me as it is the closest woodland to the university campus and thus I felt it is my duty to give it the right amount of attention and respect it deserves.

It was worth attention as it became quite clearly evident that this particular woodland is used often for camping and day excursions.

The Site

Coed Ystrad is an ancient woodland of mixed broadleaves with the sporadic conifer planted around the site.

A broadleave is a tree or plant with wide/fat/broad leaves making them easily identifiable.

Beech sweet chestnuts and oak trees are a common species throughout the woodland.

With a complex yet large path system it makes the site very popular amongst local walkers and dog walkers alike.

Fun Facts

Size:

- 11.99 hectare acres
- 29.63 acres

Grid reference: SN394188

Map Reference:

- Explorer 177
- OS Landranger 159



Explore its wilderness

To explore the site in further detail, I was able to obtain and read the site's detailed risk assessment. Specific to the area. This was then able to give me an idea of what had previously been done to conserve the site and what the plans for the future of the site are. As well as giving me an understanding of how popular the site is

To explore the wilderness better, we took the time to walk around many of the paths of the site to get a better understanding for the location and to find the spots where the most conservation was needed.



Conserve

To conserve it we gave it a much needed clean up with help from the woodland trust, city council and tidy wales whom very kindly allowed us to borrow litter picking equipment which included; litter picker. Bin bags. With the equipment we filled 5 full bin bags of rubbish cleaning up most of the rubbish that was visible to us in the woodland.

Many thanks to Eleri the admin officer at town council who helped organise the collection of the equipment.

Before Photo



Here we can see much litter left in the woodland disrespectfully by a group of people. This was cleaned up along with many other parts of the woodland which had been left in a terrible state by campers and walkers alike. To my surprise out of all the litter we cleaned up no dog poo bags were found.

After photo



As we can see in this after photo, all of the litter that was left behind by what can only be described as un-environmentally educated people has been cleaned up. Thus the habitat can thrive and go back to what it once was.

Post three steps



After taking the first three steps, discover a wild place, Explore the wilderness and conserve. I feel as if this beautiful and ancient woodland which has stood strong for hundreds of years has been given the proper love and attention it deserved. However it will need continuous conservation or a change to the educational system in the way youths are taught about how to look after the environment. Furthermore, the plans the woodland trust have for the site are very promising. With plans to bring in some of the species of trees and plants that were once a part of this thriving community alas are no longer. Yet bringing those species back to the site will most definitely make the ecosystem boom. One could also argue that to bring it back to its former glory you would also have to release animals which where previously on site back into the woodland.

Hazards and preparation



Precipitation Forecast: High Risk

If rain (or snow) does fall in the month, expect most of it to fall on the high and moderate risk days. These are not rain/snow forecasts, but weak spots in the month which would more easily allow passage of a storm through the area.

69%

Forecast risk of rain/snow.

Forecast Details:

- High risk of rain/snow.
- 16% of days in the period have higher risk



Sun Times:

Dawn 7:32 AM
Sunrise 8:12 AM
Solar Noon 12:09 PM
Sunset 4:06 PM
Dusk 4:46 PM

Moon Times:

Moonrise 12:46 PM
Moon Transit 5:24 PM
Moonset 10:13 PM

Moon Phase:



Moon: 34%
Waxing Crescent

The hazards of the day were predominantly the weather. As we all came prepared it was alright to a certain extent. Everyone had there waterproofs on which solved the majority of problems .

To the left you can see the weather forecast for the day.



Conclusion

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot from it. Through experiential learning I feel as if I have grown in my understanding of how not only the award works. But how litter picking activities work along with how to effectively and efficiently conserve and preserve a woodland or other site. It is my belief that the woodland benefitted from our trip and I am excited at the prospect of seeing it grow and develop over the coming years.