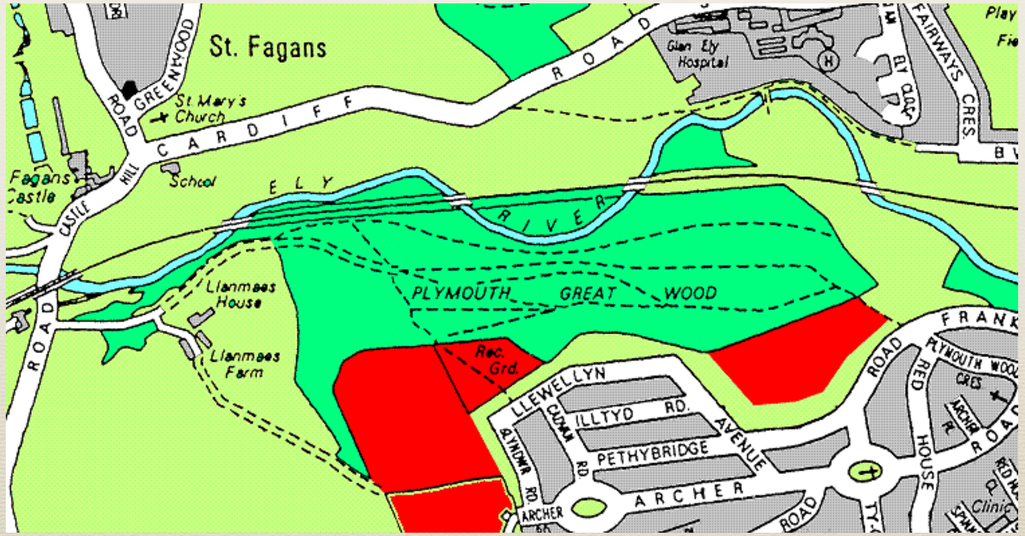
ECEY6005
Sustainability in the Early Yesrs

2015066

This is the area we **discovered** through lockdown. We started off in a small part of the woodland by a stream and as the days went by and we as a family got braver we encountered a huge area which kept our walks interesting through the lockdowns, especially in the summer as we explored every inch of the Plymouth woods.

Plymouth Great Wood is a semi-natural ancient woodland and has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation



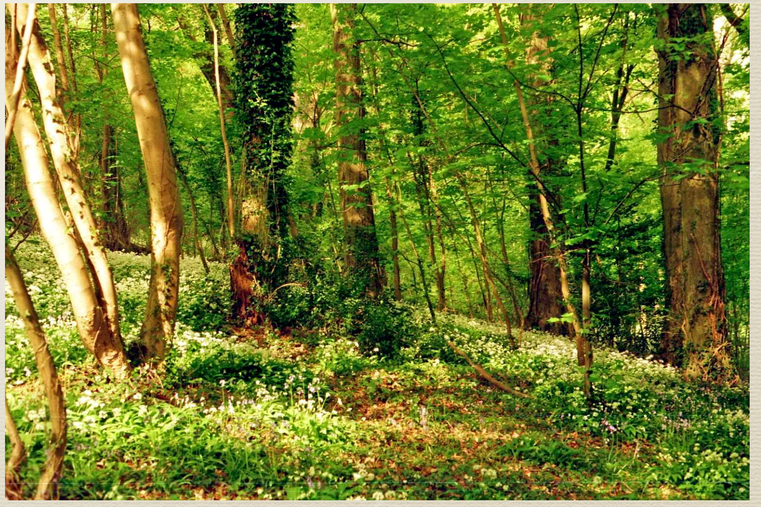
The area we given to Cardiff council in the early 1920's by the Earl,of Plymouth













We spent long summer days as a family **exploring** the area, splashing in the water, roaming through the overgrown grass climbing over trees and inevitably getting Lost and finding new paths!









We enjoyed looking at different plants, trees and leaves to discover the different flora in the area.

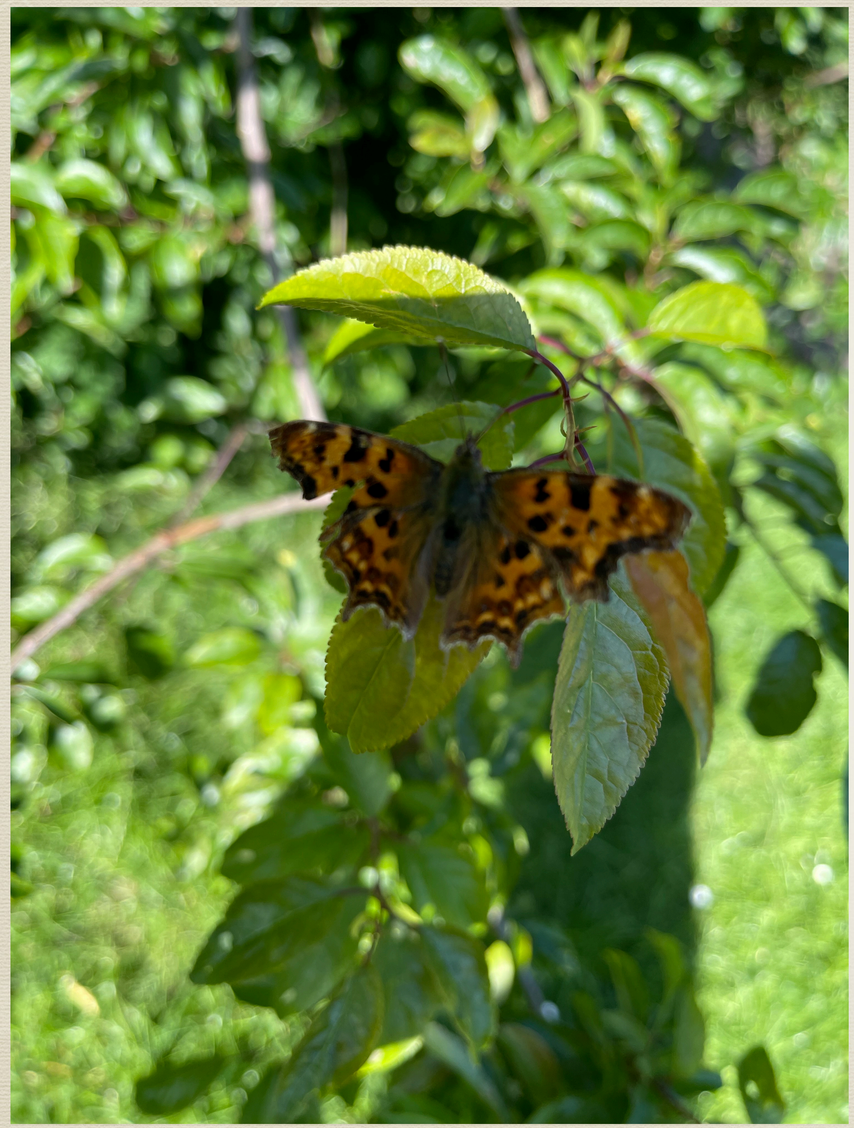












We even managed to get up close and personal to some insect life





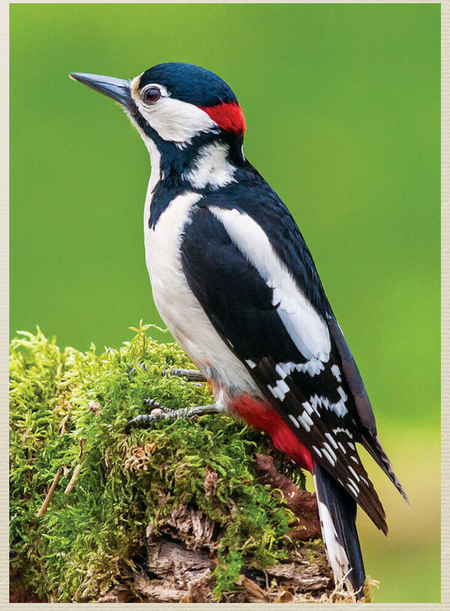




The woodland is home to many bird species nestling in the grand oak trees including blackbirds, song thrush, blue tits, chiff chaffs, robins and woodpeckers some of which we saw on our walks, others which we could just hear.











We discovered the woodland was home to many wildlife such as squirrels, common shrew, hedgehogs, bats and wood mouse.









There are many original flowering plants that remain in the woodland including dogs mercury, moschatel, primrose, monks hood, yellow archangel and yellow pimpenel as well as a beautiful stretch of bluebells.

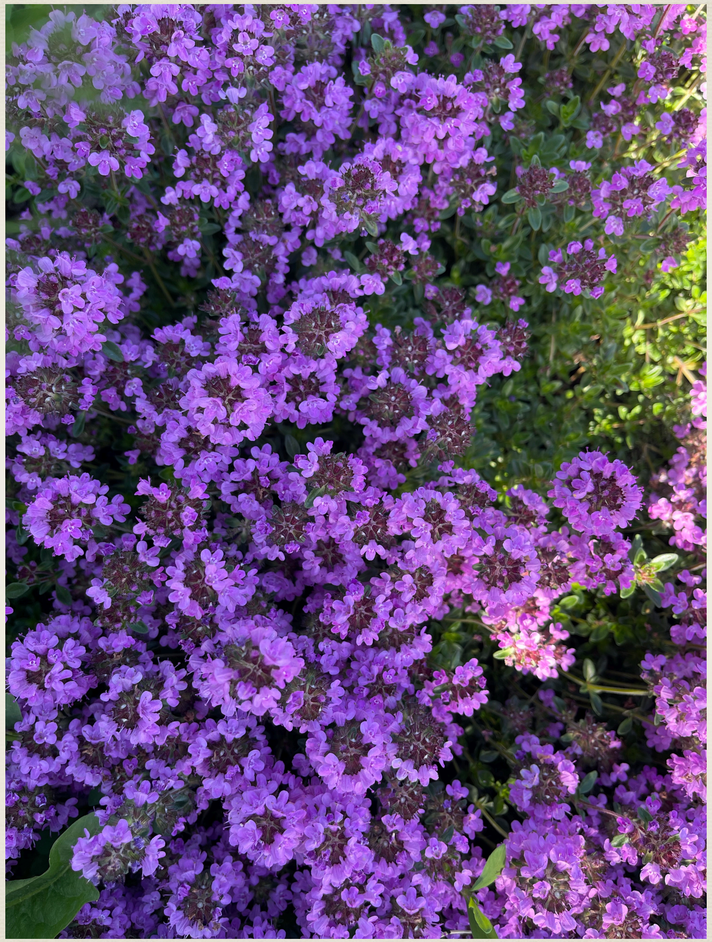
















Post lockdown, things started to change, more and more rubbish appeared in the woodland and the stream. Plastic, paper, cardboard, trolleys, food waste and dog Pooh.



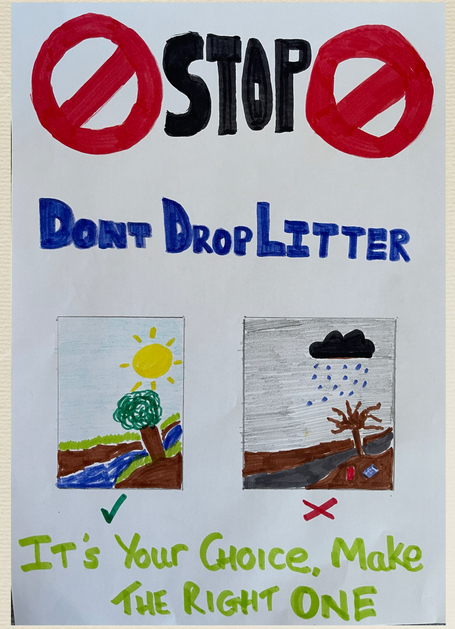


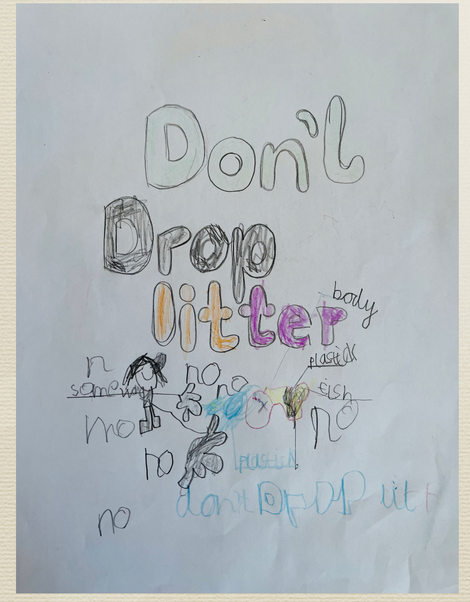




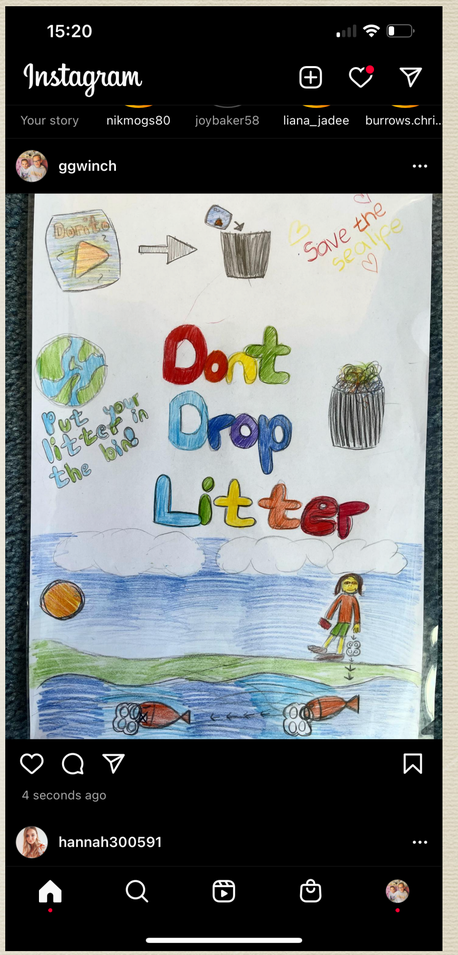
This not only affected our walks together, but Buddy our dog became more interested with trying to eat the rubbish. Leading us to share in conversation about the other wildlife and sea life that could be affected by this littering.







To **conserve** the area we each designed a poster asking people not to litter, demonstrating the harms that littering can cause and the reasons behind them. We placed our posters in the affected areas and **shared** our experience with friends, via social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram and took photos of the poster and the area into school to share at circle time.





Asking some of our friends from the nearby area we headed off to do a litter pick, collecting bags of crisp packets, drinks cans and chocolate wrappers

WalesOnline.co.uk South Wales Echo Thursday, 21 March, 2013

Fly-tippers making a mess of beauty spot

Alison Sanders
alison.sanders@walesonline.co.uk



If you go down in the woods today... litter and rotting material are what you'll find in Plymouth Great Wood, Ely, Cardiff

RESIDENTS say a beauty spot on the outskirts of Cardiff is being ruined after becoming a fly-tipping hotspot.

There are concerns that Plymouth Great Wood, on the outskirts of Ely, has become a dumping ground for rubbish.

Concerns have been raised by The Friends of Plymouth Great Wood after the fly-tipping was spotted at the back of homes on Llewellyn Avenue, Ely.

The group's chairman Paul Kemble came across the rubbish on Saturday and is calling for it to be removed.

Paul, who lives in Ely, said: "In essence we want to go back to basics and for the boundary between the woods and the gardens to be sealed with new fencing and all of the rubbish be removed."

He said Plymouth Great Wood was a popular area for walkers and dog walkers and believes it could potentially prove to be as archaeologically significant as nearby Caerau Hillfort.

He said this is not the first time rubbish has been left at the 40-acre wood.

Paul said he raised concerns five years ago when a large amount of rubbish was dumped near the quarry area in the wood.

Paul said: "With the Local Development Plan coming up, this kind of area will become a premium in the city and much more valuable so we need to protect it."

He said taxpayers have paid for fly-tipping to be removed in the past but said the financial responsibility should now be on those who committed it.

A Cardiff council spokeswoman said: "Now that this has been brought to our attention officers have been sent to visit the site and we appeal for people to come forward who may have information about the offenders so that they can be prosecuted."

The spokeswoman said Plymouth Great Wood was not an easily accessible area and was difficult to access from the road.

In 2008 the area was excavated and renovated using specialist contractors due to the steep banks and poor access of the site and 25 tonnes of waste was removed.

Trees were re-planted and top soil put down on the cleared ground to return the area to a clean and tidy state for the use of local residents.

She said the area was considered for fencing but was deemed "impractical" because of the geography of the site and the close proximity to houses.

She said: "We are determined to do everything we can to combat fly-tipping which is caused by a few socially irresponsible people and is completely unacceptable. There is no excuse, especially when there are so many easy and legitimate ways to dispose of waste."

For more information about the group, visit http://friendsofplymouthgreatwood.tripod.com.

Sadly this is not the first nor will it be the last time the issue of rubbish has been raised, however I am hoping this experience has instilled how precious the environment is to my children and they will appreciate and care for the areas that are important to us and the wider community