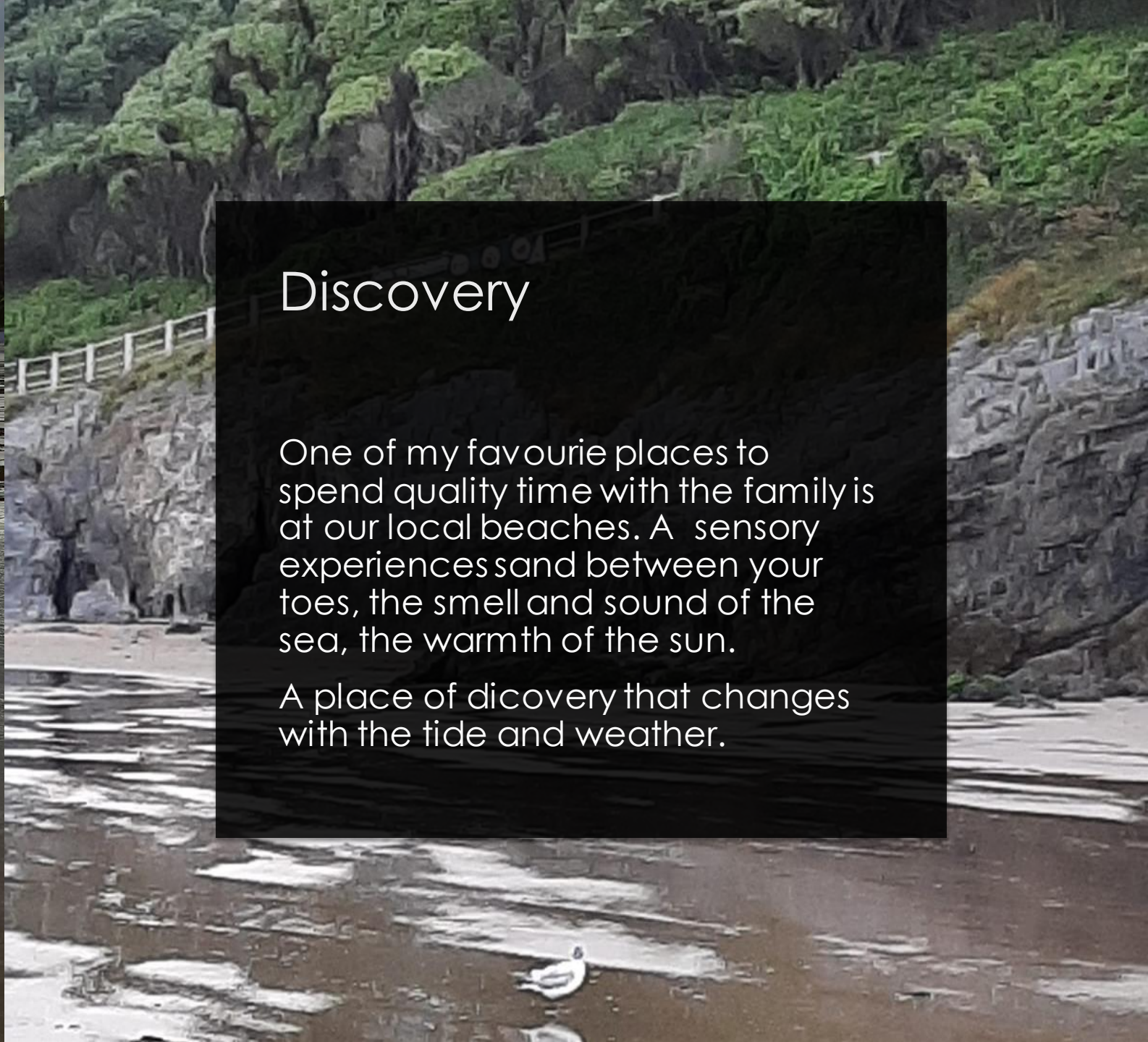




Sustainability in the Early Years EAEE6005

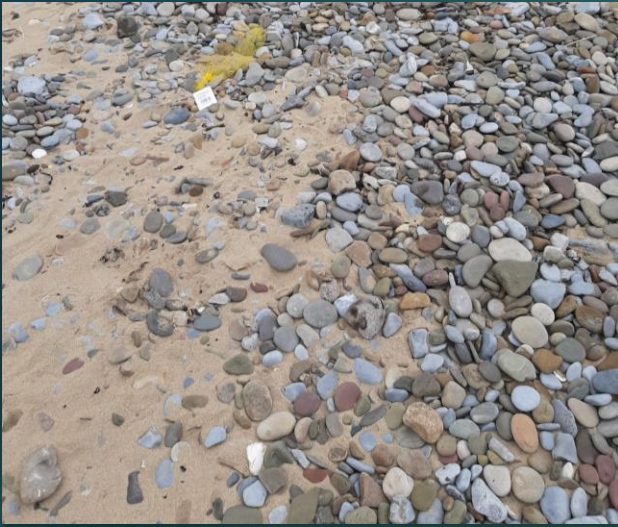
MY JOHN MUIR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY
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Discovery

One of my favourite places to spend quality time with the family is at our local beaches. A sensory experiences sand between your toes, the smell and sound of the sea, the warmth of the sun.

A place of discovery that changes with the tide and weather.



Along the shoreline I observed pollution washed up to shore with the tide and plastic left behind by visitors. As I moved along the shore another realisation underneath the seaweed mother nature was at work. Hungry seagulls patrolled the shoreline quickly devouring any insects or decomposing crabs.

An ecosystem revealed itself to me, In order to be sustainable future generations need to learn from mistakes in the past living with nature rather than undoing the damage created in the past.



Exploring my garden
My journey of
discovery continues.



While exploring my garden I realised how rich it was in wildlife. I often see squirrels running along the fence, numerous birds fly overhead and visit the trees, collecting sticks and moss to feather their nests. My garden backs on to an ancient woodland consisting of oaks, pine trees, birch and hazel.

A FREQUENT VISITOR TO THE LARGE CONIFER IS A WOODPECKER JUST AT THE TOP OF THE TREE.

Predators visiting my garden

A hungry hedgehog searching for his dinner. What will be on the menu tonight.



An eager eyed buzzard glides overhead.



A toad on the lookout for a juicy slug.

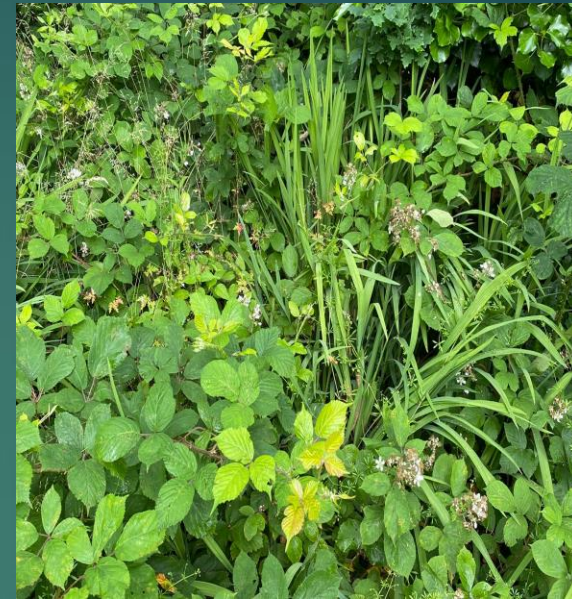




Exploring the ecosystem in my garden.

After discovering an abundance of wildlife in my garden_I considered what might be attracting them to the area. Where did they hide? What did they feed on?

I discovered that within my garden there was a range of native flora such as an apple tree, wild strawberries have established at the outer edges of the fencing, there is an abundance of blackberry bushes within the woods.



This gave me inspiration to explore what insects might be living within the flora of the garden and a bug hunt was underway.





While exploring the surrounding woods of my home, I was able to take my children to my favourite oak tree that I had spent many hours as a child climbing and failing from. Together we discussed the eco system around us and reasoned that all the animals observed were predators and concluded that the environment supported source of food. We began to look for insects within the area and made many discovers of familiar species, worms, woodlice, centipedes, spiders, grasshoppers, beetles.



My amazing discovery.

Through internet research I was able to identify the beetle as the blue ground beetle.

Britains largest Beetle and a rare species included in the UK biodiversity plan.

Furthermore, the woods surrounding my home Coed Maesmelin is the only place in Wales and the most northerly point in Europe where the blue ground beetle is found. The adult beetles are active from late March until June.

Adults mate and lay eggs in the spring, the larvae develop through the summer with new adults emerging in the autumn. The adult beetles hibernate under moss-laden dead bark and are thought to live for 2 to 3 years. (Buglife.org 2020)



Conserve

To support and conserve the wildlife in my garden I decided to build bug houses to support a sustainable food source for all the wildlife within it. By providing areas for insects to live and thrive supports sustainable living with a long term affects.

Reflection

When reflecting on the John Muir I have found the experience to have firstly been enjoyable but also a pathway of discovery. I have new knowledge and appreciation for my local area and the hidden gems within it. I have also reflected on my own practice that with in that I often tell stories lead activities that focus on the wonder of nature such as caterpillars turning into butterflies but rarely offer experiences that offer children to observe decomposition such as a flower decaying and returning to seed. In my future practice I will look at ways to inform children and involve them in the full life cycle the living and the decomposing to fully support a sustainable future generation leaving within nature. Remembering that there always something new to even if you must scratch beneath surface to see what beauty lies beneath

