

CASE STUDY – CAMP PLAS

Introduction

Camp Plas is situated just outside the village of Dolanog along the River Vyrnwy. It is a small, working traditional farm with a campsite and venue for events. Camp Plas is part of the Greener Camping Club. Campers set up in the meadow, with pathways mown through the meadow from the main track to the pitch. The number of tents allowed on site is limited, making it a peaceful place to come and stay. Camp Plas also has “The Boatshed”, a small hut, and “Cuddfan Bach”, a bell tent, which people can stay in. There is a large barn, which is used for events such as yoga, music nights and weddings, which usually involve members of the local community.

The Project

Managing the land

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (MWT) staff visited the site in September 2021. Advice was given about how to improve the campsite and surrounding farmland for biodiversity, such as pond creation, management of wetland areas, removing non-native invasive rhododendrons in the woodland area, and the possibility of using different livestock for grazing, as well as the sheep already on the farm.

Camp Plas have left the wetland area, which even had frogspawn in late winter of 2022, and are managing the majority of the campsite land as a meadow, by restricting cutting and allowing the sheep to mob graze it in early autumn.



Left image: Frogspawn in the wetland area © MWT. Right image: Meadow area ©Camp Plas

Connecting visitors with wildlife

Camp Plas is already a member of the Greener Camping Club, but the site owners wanted to help visitors connect even more with nature.

In February 2022, MWT ran a “Bird Bonanza” event aimed at the local community, but visitors staying in The Boatshed also attended. We built bird boxes and learnt how to look after the birds in your garden at home. We also did a short walk around the site looking for birds. Some of the bird boxes were put up around the site, whilst others were taken home for people to put up in their own gardens.

In August 2022, MWT ran a Bat and Moth Night with Montgomeryshire Moth Group. Nearly 40 people attended the event, over half of which were staying at the campsite, and the rest of the attendees were members of the local community. We did a bat walk, followed by looking at what was caught in the moth traps.

Camp Plas have also provided extra engagement activities for visitors such as fishing nets for the children to use in the river, wildlife ID sheets and ideas for nature activities they can do on site.



Left image: Building boxes at the Bird Bonanza event in February 2022.

Right image: Bat and Moth Night introductory talk in August 2022. © MWT

Project Outputs

MWT provided written and verbal advice and ran events at Camp Plas. Events were attended by campsite residents and members of the local community.

Land Management		
Written and verbal management advice provided and acted on.		
Connecting visitors with wildlife		
	Attendees	Boxes made/donated
Bird Bonanza	24	24
Bat and Moth Night	40	n/a

Project Outcomes

- MWT's liaison with Camp Plas has resulted in a new habitat management regime that has already improved the biodiversity of the site and the visitors' experience. Visitors will also benefit from learning about the management of the campsite.
- Events run by MWT at Camp Plas empowered a total of 64 people to take action for wildlife including building and erecting 24 nest boxes on site and within the local community.
- Links between Camp Plas and the local community have been strengthened.
- As a result of their Green Connections involvement, the site owners are getting involved with a new MWT Team Wilder project in the wider area, aiming to create a conservation group with local residents in and around Dolanog.