



Credit: Graham Davies



WILD GROUND

ENVIRONMENTS FOR NATURE: ENVIRONMENTS FOR PEOPLE

Wild Ground engages, inspire and enthuses local communities to act together to protect wildlife and enhance habitats, eco-systems and bio-diversity. We run and manage 15 nature reserves with a special interest in conserving amphibian and reptile habitats. Our work involves ecological land management, providing training courses, running community events, working with schools and colleges to provide educational activities and running an inclusive volunteer programme.

OUR BACK YARD

Our Back Yard is a National Lottery funded project running in Connah's Quay, Flintshire aimed at empowering communities to improve their natural environment for current and future generations. The project aims to increase people's pride in their neighbourhood, to strengthen community cohesion, provide opportunities for people of all ages to be more active in the open air, increase learning and volunteering opportunities and create improved habitats for wildlife.



Two of the nature reserves run and managed by Wild Ground are part of this programme, Broad Oak and Llwyni Valley. Activities at the nature reserves have included: litter picking, bracken bashing, minibeast hunts, access improvements, fencing and path maintenance, nature walks and campfire cooking.

THE NATURAL CLASSROOM:



Thanks to funding from the Ernest Cook Trust, Wild Ground ran a Natural Classroom Programme to capture young people's interest in wildlife in and around North East Flintshire, teaching them traditional classroom subjects such as literacy and numeracy, but in a practical outdoor setting. The programme aimed to connect young people with, and to value, their local wildlife, focusing on those with mental and physical health issues and young people who have difficulty learning in a traditional classroom environment.

The programme delivered many outdoor learning sessions for schools and groups and gave teachers new skills to lead outdoor education sessions beyond the life of the project.

"Giving our young people the opportunity to get involved with the Natural Classroom was invaluable. Getting them out of the college classroom to a nature reserve helps them to feel more involved in their local community, it boosts their confidence and lessens the isolation that a lot of young disabled people experience. Learning about conservation and nature in an actual outdoor setting gives them practical knowledge and improves their skills in a way that will hopefully also boost their opportunities in future to take part in voluntary or paid work experiences." Sue McGrane, Leonard Cheshire Disability

OUTCOMES

WILD GROUND

3,395

hours of
volunteering
achieved



724,423 sqm

of land improved or
maintained



weeks of training
delivered in wildlife
and conservation

OUR BACKYARD

Outdoor wildlife
and conservation
events



341

volunteer hours

Bags of rubbish
collected



THE NATURAL CLASSROOM



649 young people outdoor
classroom sessions

192 people engaged in
family nature sessions

40 young people from
specialist schools took part in
outdoor learning and social
forestry