



Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd Tywi a River Through time

Evaluation Report **(Nov 2008- March 2011)**

Alyson Jenkins April 2011

Contents

Executive summary	2
Crynhodeb Gweithredol	4
1. Introduction	6
2. The Evaluation	8
3. The Four Themes	
3.1 Discover the Tywi	9
3.2 Exploration Tywi	12
3.3 Traditional and Sustainable Building	15
3.4 Landscape & Biodiversity	18
4 Volunteering	21
5 Key Findings	22
6 Conclusion	29
7 Recommendations	30

Appendices

- 1 Links to survey questionnaires
- 2 Calendar of Events 2010

Executive Summary

Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd / Tywi a River through Time (TAYO) was a project based at The Tywi Centre in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. The project ran between July 2008 and March 2011. It was wide ranging with different themes and projects working within its overall framework. Its mission was to make the cultural, built and natural heritage understandable, accessible and integrated into daily life, its vision: a future when the land, buildings and culture of West Wales are enjoyed understood and sensitively maintained.

The Tywi Centre managed projects funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) - £1.5 million and the European Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013 (RDP) - £557,378.

The TAYO project had four main themes; each one focusing on a specific aspect of the Tywi Valley and each theme having a specific set of outputs, outcomes and targets with activities and a methodology for achieving these.

- **Discover the Tywi** – encompassed interpreting, understanding and learning about the valley and its heritage and promoting the area's cultural distinctiveness. There were many strands including the arts, community and education.
- **Exploration Tywi!** - investigated the origins and history of the Tywi valley and was led by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT). Working with groups and individuals it explored the archaeology and geology of the area through a series of activities.
- **The Traditional Sustainable Building Centre** - focused on celebrating local building styles, offering information and advice and providing opportunities to learn traditional building skills and to learn about using new technology and renewable materials in old buildings.
- **Landscape and Biodiversity** – administered a grant scheme for farmers, landowners and community groups, to improve restore and expand habitats, notably woodlands, farmland and wetlands.

TAYO was managed by a partnership board and each theme had a steering group. Membership of these groups included partner organisations offering expertise, support and advice. The project employed a project manager, administrator, an officer for each theme and a volunteer officer. All project staff were committed, knowledgeable and passionate about the work; this, the management structure and the extended networks and partnerships are major factors in TAYO's success.

Staff turnover was a major challenge for TAYO. Team working was strong enabling the work to continue during periods when posts were vacant. The volunteer officer was able to cover work to a high standard; however being without a project manager for 6 months was difficult.

Engagement with and participation by the public was excellent, volunteers worked across the themes and were motivated and inspired by TAYO. Consultation was done through focus groups and at all stages during project development. The level of activity in all themes was prolific. Events organised by the project, were very successful, from small community events to a food festival attracting over 3,000 people

Evaluation and monitoring was good and improved as the project became more established. All main targets were met and most were exceeded. There was slight variation on some smaller targets but more in-depth work was carried out.

Resources developed and produced by TAYO include packs for schools and walk leaflets which are of high quality.

The project delivered many training courses and workshops for businesses, schools, local interest groups and members of the public on all aspects of TAYO.

The project had a large impact on communities and individuals and has left a lasting legacy. Art work such as sculptures remain in the valley, groups set up by the project continue to meet and individuals are pursuing careers inspired by their involvement with TAYO.

The Traditional Sustainable Building Centre has secured future funding for the delivery of a heritage skills bursary scheme called Foundations in Heritage: Learning core heritage skills in the workplace in West Wales.

Summary of Recommendations

- Seek funding to continue all aspects of the work of the project. This is an overriding recommendation.
- Disseminate information about the project and its achievements at all levels and through all means possible.
- Develop a more systematic approach to data collection to gather more useful data for monitoring and evaluation in any future projects.
- Build on good feedback methods used in focus groups and questionnaires for project feedback and collect baseline indicators for future work
- Have contingency plans in place for staff turnover in future projects
- Develop a plan for future maintenance of work done by projects.
- Plan ways for sustaining the strong partnerships developed through the project and explore the possibility of working in a coordinated way with other organisations delivering the same agenda in the area.
- Build in strategies for staff training, marketing and dissemination: a Training Needs Analysis and staff training earlier on in projects, a Marketing Strategy developed and training in marketing methods, website development taken more seriously and completed to a high standard throughout projects.

Crynodeb Gweithredol

Mae prosiect Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd (TAYO) wedi ei leoli yng Nghanolfan Tywi yn Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Mae'r gwerthusiad yn edrych ar y prosiect rhwng Gorffennaf 2008 a Mawrth 2011. Roedd yn brosiect eang iawn gyda gwahanol themâu a phrosiectau yn gweithio o fewn fframwaith cyffredinol. Ei genhadaeth oedd gwneud y dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol, adeiledig a naturiol yn ddealladwy ac yn hygyrch i bobl lleol ac integreiddio hwn i fywyd bob dydd. Ei weledigaeth yw dyfodol pan fydd y tir, adeiladau a diwylliant Gorllewin Cymru yn cael eu mwynhau eu deall a'u cynnal mewn modd sensitif.

Bu Canolfan Tywi yn rheoli prosiectau a ariennir drwy'r Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri (HLF) - £ 1.5 miliwn a'r Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig Ewropeaidd 2007 - 2013 (RDP) - £ 557,378.

Roedd pedwar thema o fewn TAYO, pob thema yn canolbwyntio ar agwedd penodol o fywyd yn Nyffryn Tywi ac roedd gan bob thema set benodol o allbynnau, canlyniadau a thargedau gyda gweithgareddau a methodoleg ar gyfer cyflawni'r rhain:

- **Darganfod y Tywi** - mae'r thema yn cwmpasu dehongli, dealltwriaeth a dysgu am y cwm a'i threftadaeth a hyrwyddo arbenigrwydd yr ardal. Roedd llawer o elfennau o dan y thema gan gynnwys y celfyddydau, y gymuned ac addysg.
- **Chwilota Tywi!** Ymchwilio i wreiddiau a hanes dyffryn Tywi wnaeth y thema yma ac fe'i harweinir gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Dyfed (DAT). Gweithiodd y thema gyda grwpiau ac unigolion yn archwilio archaeoleg a daeareg yr ardal drwy gyfres o weithgareddau.
- **Canolfan Adeiladu Traddodiadol a Cynaliadwy** - mae hwn yn dathlu arddulliau adeiladu lleol. Mae'r thema yn cynnig gwybodaeth a chyngor ac yn darparu cyfleoedd i ddysgu sgiliau adeiladu traddodiadol ac i ddysgu am ddefnyddio technoleg newydd a defnyddiau adnewyddadwy mewn hen adeiladau.
- **Tirwedd a Bioamrywiaeth** - gweinyddodd y thema cynllun grant ar gyfer ffermwyr, tiffeddianwyr a grwpiau cymunedol, er mwyn gwella adfer ac ehangu cynefinoedd, yn enwedig coetiroedd, tir fferm a gwlyptiroedd.

Cafodd TAYO ei reoli gan fwrdd partneriaeth ac roedd gan bob thema grŵp llywio. Roedd aelodaeth o'r grwpiau hyn yn cynnwys sefydliadau, mudiadau a phartneriaid oedd yn cynnig arbenigedd, cefnogaeth a chyngor. Roedd yna reolwr prosiect gweinyddydd, un swyddog ar gyfer pob thema a swyddog gwirfoddoli. Roedd pop aelod o staff yn ymroddedig, gwybodus ac yn frwd dros y gwaith; y fframwaith hwn, y strwythur rheoli a'r rhwydweithiau estynedig a phartneriaethau cadarn oedd y ffactorau pwysig yn llwyddiant TAYO.

Roedd trosiant staff yn her fawr i'r prosiect, fodd bynnag, fe wnaeth y swyddog gwirfoddoli yn gallu ymdrin a chynnal y gwaith i safon uchel a chynhaliodd cryfder y tim y prosiect pan oedd swyddi yn wag. Roedd fod heb rheolwr prosiect am 6 mis yn anodd.

Roedd estyniad ac ansawdd ymgysylltiad a'r cyhoedd a chyfranogiad yn ardderchog gan gynnwys gwirfoddolwyr yn gweithio ar draws y themâu. Bu ymgynghori da phobl yr ardal - gwnaed hyn trwy grwpiau ffocws ar bob cam yn ystod datblygiad y prosiect. Roedd gwaith monitro a gwerthuso da ac roedd hyn yn gwella wrth i'r prosiect ddod yn fwy sefydledig. Mae pob prif darged wedi ei bodloni ac y rhan fwyaf wedi eu rhagori. Roedd lefel y gweithgarwch ar draws yr holl themâu yn doreithiog. Bu'r digwyddiadau a threfnwyd gan y prosiect yn llwyddiannus iawn: o ddigwyddiadau cymunedol bach i'r wyl fwyd a ddenodd dros 3,000 o bobl.

Datblygwyd adnoddau sydd yn cynnwys pecynnau ar gyfer ysgolion a thafleuni cerdded.

Maent oll o safon uchel. Darparwyd nifer o gyrsiau hyfforddi a gweithdai ar gyfer busnesau, ysgolion, grwpiau diddordeb lleol ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd ar bob agwedd o waith TAYO.

Mae'r prosiect wedi cael argraff ac effaith fawr ar gymunedau ac unigolion ac wedi gadael etifeddiaeth barhaol yn yr ardal. Mae gwaith celf fel cerfluniau ar draws y dyffryn, mae grwpiau a sefydlwyd gan y prosiect yn parhau i gyfarfod ac unigolion yn mynd ar drywydd gyrfaoedd a chafodd eu hysbrydoli gan TAYO.

Mae'r Canolfan Adeiladu Traddodiadol a Cynaliadwy wedi sicrhau cyllid ar gyfer darparu cynllun bwrsariaeth er mwyn datblygu sgiliau adeiladu treftadaeth. Bydd y rhai o dan hyfforddiant yn dysgu sgiliau craidd treftadaeth yn y gweithle yng Ngorllewin Cymru.

Crynodeb o'r Argymhellion

- Ceisio arian ar gyfer parhau pob agwedd o waith y prosiect. Mae hyn yn argymhelliad gor-redol.
- Lledaenu gwybodaeth am y prosiect a'r llwyddiant ar bob lefel a thrwy pob ffordd posib.
- Datblygu dull mwy systematig o gasglu data a chasglu rhagor o ddata defnyddiol ar gyfer monitro a gwerthuso mewn unrhyw brosiect yn y dyfodol.
- Adeiladu ar ddulliau adborth da a ddefnyddir, sef y grwpiau ffocws a holiaduron. Hefyd, mae'n bwysig i gael dangosyddion gwaelodlin.
- Cynllunio wrth gefn yn eu lle ar gyfer trosiant staff
- Datblygu cynllun ar gyfer cynnal a chadw y gwaith a wneir gan brosiectau yn y dyfodol
- Cynllunio ar gyfer cynnal partneriaethau cryf a ddatblygwyd gan y prosiect a cysylltu gyda grwpiau a mudiadau sydd yn gweithio yn yr un maes er meyn cyd weithio a chreu strwythur cadarn yn yr ardal.
- Sicrhau fod strategaethau ar gyfer staff, marchnata a lledaenu ymarfer da: Dadansoddiad Anghenion Hyfforddi a hyfforddiant staff yn gynharach, Strategaeth Marchnata a hyfforddiant mewn dulliau marchnata, datblygu Gwefan a'i chynnal i safon uchel.

1. Introduction

The Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd (TAYO)/Tywi a River through Time project was based at The Tywi Centre, in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. The project ran between July 2008 and the end of March 2011. It was a wide ranging project with different themes and projects working within its overall framework. It aimed to conserve and enhance the built, cultural and natural heritage in Carmarthenshire and surrounding areas, which is reflected in its mission statement and vision:

Mission statement: We will make our cultural, built and natural heritage understandable, accessible and integrated into daily life.

Vision: A future when the land, buildings and culture of West Wales are enjoyed understood and sensitively maintained.

TAYO focused on the Tywi Valley's landscape between Llangadog and Dryslwyn. It aimed to celebrate and conserve this notable valley through developing better understanding of the landscape, strengthening links between the community and the landscape and developing skills in order to realise the project's broad aims.

The economic, social and environmental contexts were included in the holistic vision of TAYO and it encompassed many of the policy directives of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) including: One Wales: One Planet, a New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009¹); Achieving our Potential 2006 – 2013 – the national tourism strategy² The Rural Development Plan for Wales, 2007 - 2013³ and the recent A Living Wales - a new framework for our environment, our countryside and our seas⁴. WAG also places a statutory duty on local authorities to promote culture and encourage partnerships to provide cultural experiences for their communities, to maximise the contribution that the historic environment makes to the economy and education, and revitalise communities by improving interpretation and access at historic sites.⁵

Funding Streams

The Tywi Centre managed projects funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the European Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2007 – 2013, through the Welsh Assembly Government:

- HLF - £1.5m
- RDP £557,378

The RDP grant under axis 3 - enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy and also axis 4 – using LEADER locally based approaches to Rural Development.

¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

² <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/development/strategypolicy/aop?lang=en>

³ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/ruraldevelopment/?lang=en>

⁴ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/?lang=en>

⁵ <http://wales.gov.uk/about/civilservice/directorates/sustainablefutures/heritage/?lang=en>

The Themes

The project had four main themes, each one focusing on a specific aspect of the Tywi Valley and in some respects were mini projects under the TAYO framework. Each theme had a specific set of outputs, outcomes and targets with activities and a methodology for achieving these.

- **Landscape and Biodiversity**
- **Discover the Tywi**
- **Exploration Tywi!**
- **The Traditional Sustainable Building Centre**

The Beginning

The idea for the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd goes back to a Landscape Partnership - Grwp Cefn Gwlad which received a grant from HLF to develop the project. The Project Manager of that initiative was closely involved in formulating the original vision and plan and in designing the project specification. This specification was very detailed, outlining the themes with their corresponding outputs, outcomes and indicators, staff time and costing. In year 2 (phase 2) another successful bid was submitted to HLF outlining more detailed plans for the project's interpretation and building themes.

The project was due to start in April 2008, however the project manager was not appointed until August 2008 and other staff in November and December 2008. The project was at this time located in the County Council offices at Shire Hall, Llandeilo and relocated to Dinefwr Home Farm in November 2009.

Despite a late start the project started with gusto. The reports show that activities began immediately with applications for the Tirwedd Tywi Grants being processed in January 2009. During the first quarter of 2009 a great deal of activity took place including the appointment of agencies and organisations to deliver parts of the project such as a storyteller, a theatre group and sculptor. The project ran focus groups to begin engaging with communities, to let people know about the project and to gather views about what people were interested in.

Management and Structure

The project came under the Cefn Gwlad Partnership, sitting within the conservation section of Carmarthenshire County Council, which is within the planning department. The project was managed by a Landscape Partnership Board comprised of leaders from partner organisations including Carmarthenshire County Council, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the National Trust (NT), Menter Bro Dinefwr and local councillors. This partnership approach was essential given the diverse nature of the project's activities.

Each theme apart from Exploration Tywi! was supported by a steering group bringing together organisations with expertise to advise and offer support to the project staff.

Staff

A Project Manager oversaw all activities and ensured the smooth running and successful delivery of all aspects of TAYO. The Project Manager managed the team of: Learning & Interpretation Officer with responsibility for the Discover Theme, Traditional & Sustainable Buildings Officer, Landscape & Biodiversity Officer, Volunteers Officer and an administrator. There were many staff changes during the life of the project, which was one of the main challenges for TAYO and will be discussed in the following evaluation report.

2. The Evaluation

This is a qualitative evaluation, using quantitative data when appropriate. The RDP and the HLF guidelines for good evaluation were used in constructing the evaluation plan. Indicators are the outputs corresponding to targets plus all additional outputs, outcomes and the impact of the project. The evaluation was conducted during March 2011. A variety of methods were used in order to get a full picture of the TAYO story from the perspective of as many different stakeholders as possible and to find out if it had made a real and lasting difference. The methods used were:

Staff Interviews

The evaluation included face to face interviews with all members of staff at TAYO, the Administrator, Project Manager and four Project Officers. There was also a telephone interview with the officer who had recently returned from maternity leave.

Desk Research

Desk research included relevant project documentation, identified during the staff interviews, including claims and reports to funding bodies (HLF and RDP), minutes of meetings, the calendar of events, staff monitoring reports, marketing files, beneficiary databases and all files kept by the project officers. Evaluations of activities and feedback from focus groups undertaken by each of the project's four themes were also reviewed.

Stakeholders

- internal partners including project board and steering group members
- internal partners in Carmarthenshire County Council
- external partners who have worked with the project
- external partners as recipients of services
- external partners delivering services for TAYO
- volunteers
- beneficiaries

Many of the external and internal partners were represented on the project's partnership board and / or on the steering groups and completed surveys/questionnaires.

Surveys/Questionnaires - Landscape Partnership Board and Steering Groups

Members of the Landscape Partnership Board, the steering groups for Landscape & Biodiversity, Discover and Traditional Sustainable Building were all sent an e-survey. 18 questionnaires were returned. Those that responded replied fully and many were available for follow on interviews.

Interviews with Partnership Board and Steering Groups Members

Interviews were conducted over the telephone with members of the board and steering groups. Issues were explored in depth allowing for wide ranging discussions on the project. 6 members of the board and steering groups were interviewed.

There were 7 telephone interviews with external partners.

Surveys/Questionnaires - Beneficiaries and Volunteers

An e-survey was sent to a sample of beneficiaries across the age ranges. 12 surveys were returned

Interviews with Beneficiaries and Volunteers. 6 telephone interviews were conducted with beneficiaries/volunteers. These were people who had indicated in a survey that they were happy to be interviewed

The partnership, steering group and beneficiary questionnaires are accessible online – See Appendix 1

The Evaluation - Report Structure

The first section of the evaluation will look at the outputs, outcomes and impact of each theme within the project. This is followed by a section on key findings from the overall project looking at the aims, objectives and core functions. The report ends with a conclusion and recommendations for the future

3. The Four Themes

3.1 Discover the Tywi - Darganfod Tywi

The purpose of this theme was to interpret the valley in innovative ways in order to educate, provoke and inspire the public. It used different mediums and activities to explore, reveal and interpret the valley and its heritage and to promote the area's cultural distinctiveness. This report is only able to give some indication of the work done:

Voices of the Valley

An oral history project was recorded on a DVD and distributed to all 8 schools that TAYO worked with. The National Grid for Learning is adding this DVD to their resources. A radio programme recorded with Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) will be broadcast on local radio. Training was also part of this strand and there was excellent feedback from members of the community who attended training events.

Signs and Sculptures

Many sculptures are now dotted across the Tywi Valley, these were made by local craftsman and artist Paul Clark. They are excellently executed and reflect the unique history and ecology of the area. There was a great deal of consultation during the design phase between the sculptor, TAYO, partners and the public. Among the highlights of this strand are: Trilobites decorating the walls outside Llangadog school, a large plaque in Llangadog highlighting the town's famous races, a hub outside the Tywi Centre showing the diversity of valley life and a sculpture trail in Tregib woods based on the biodiversity of the area. 3 sound boxes will be in place at car parks in Llandovery, Llangadog and Carmarthen, with local voices taking visitors through elements of the area. These are all lasting legacies of the project to be enjoyed by the communities for generations to come.

Telling the story

A professional storyteller, Michael Harvey, was employed by the project, he worked with many community groups and schools. A beautiful wooden chair – 'Cadair y Cyfarwydd' was commissioned and is still being used. Stories and storytelling were woven into many of TAYO's activities such as the focus groups, noson lawen and the work on interpreting buildings in Llandeilo. Training in story telling was offered and there are now many more people not only taking magical stories into communities but also the ancient and valuable skill/craft of storytelling.

"I had wanted to do this all my life, then I had this marvellous opportunity. We borrowed the chair and it went from there. We now have a storytellers group. I have made new friends and had new experiences." Beneficiary

Tywi Traders looked at businesses and buildings in the area and bilingual plaques and dossiers explaining the background history have been presented to the owners of 23 buildings in the area thanks to the work of Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

What's in a Name? Catrin Dafydd, the writer, ran successful poetry workshop in schools; young people used rap to express themselves and evaluation forms show that all participants gained a great deal from the activities. Previous to the workshops they did not know much about the area's history and many said they would now take an interest in and care for the environment and the valley. An update of local tithe field names was carried out on 7 local farms and laminated copies of updated maps were presented to farmers, to DAT and Carmarthen museum.

Theatre in the Landscape - Small World Theatre, a theatre company from Ceredigion delivered this strand and they worked in many schools and with community groups to produce three community plays in three different areas. This would appear to have been the least successful element of Discover Tywi, however people did enjoy participating and a DVD of performances at Llangadog was well received.

Views of the Valley introduced photography and enabled people to include old photos in the interpretation of the valley. Workshop evaluation forms showed that this reached people who were not very familiar with photography, all who attended enjoyed and learned a great deal. It increased participants' sense of involvement and connectedness with the valley. 7 community groups produced exhibits – woodcarving, prints, quilting and calligraphy. All 8 participating schools had a visiting artist to run a workshop in the craft of their choice.

Walks in the Valley involved holding themed walks and then training walk leaders. Themed walk leaflets were also produced and are now available at the Tywi Centre, they were also produced in DVD format. The leaflets were produced in conjunction with the Landscape & Biodiversity theme which is discussed under that theme.

Orienteering/ Three Towers Fun Event - This was a partnership with the National Trust, Menter Bro Dinefwr and Countryside Council for Wales. According to the evaluation forms and many of the people interviewed this event was a resounding success. The course creator commented that *"This has not been fleeting, we have created something permanent – it will benefit individuals and the community as a whole"*.

The Food Festival was the most talked about event over the three years of the TAYO project. It attracted 3,000 people over a weekend. The evaluations showed that people had enjoyed and many said they had learned something new. The event was a showcase for local produce; there were workshops and activities that linked the four themes such as storytelling and pizzas cooked in a hand built stone oven. It was a fun event for everyone and raised the profile of the project. A Twmpath Dance and a Noson Lawen were among some of the other events held during the three years of the project.

The Steering Group

The steering group brought together people from a wide range of organisations and there was excellent cross fertilization of ideas and a great deal of support, advice and networking.

"At the steering group the importance of Edward Llwyd and geology/ fossils was raised and with one local head this resulted in a very impressive display of trilobites at Llangadog school." Member of steering group

Education

This theme engaged with schools in the area, all seven primary and one secondary school. This was not in the original specification but it was considered an obvious way to reach people and have a lasting impact. Theatre, music, storytelling, orienteering and many other activities benefited the local schools. The project purchased equipment such as historical costumes, a water flume and field surveys which will now be available for use by the schools. An Education pack and an Electronic resources guide are now available.

“The children have had some brilliant experiences and learned new skills. The parents have benefited too” Teacher

“A local school did trilobites – mixed art and science – fantastic – geology and natural science. Trilobites were first identified here!! Something to be celebrated.”

Partnership board member

There were many other innovative activities such as the Drumming & Rapping workshop where over a 3 day period 10 students from from Coleg Sir Gâr and from disadvantaged backgrounds made drums from wood and goat skins. On the 4th day they wrote and recorded ‘rap’ songs inspired by local folklore and landscape.

Educational resources that were created will be uploaded onto the TAYO website, as well as being sent to all participating schools. The resources include guides - making bird boxes and pond dipping; equipment - meadow sweeping, minibeast hunting, mammal detective and pond dipping. A resource pack containing DVD’s, photos and MP3 files, research data and power points was provided to all schools.

Activities under this theme also included business seminars and talks on landscape and farming and on the importance of heritage to local business and local produce.

3.1.1 Conclusion

Of all the themes this was the most diverse and also the theme that encountered most challenges in the form of staff turnover. The responses from the survey and interviews suggest that Discover Tywi definitely increased awareness of the Tywi Valleys and its heritage and that it engaged successfully with a wide range of people and groups in the area. Only one target fell short: 50 bilingual plaques were to be erected outside local businesses however more in-depth work was done on 23 plaques and seen to be a better outcome. All other targets were exceeded and a wider range of work done than in the original specification. Delivery was bilingual for the most part across all strands.

Learning was at the heart of most activities and there were many opportunities for volunteering and for community involvement at all levels, by individuals and groups, children, young people and adults of all abilities. This theme definitely made real the objective of *“an inclusive rural landscape”*⁶.

“This has been a marvellous opportunity for the people of the area; it has really raised the profile of local heritage and also left some excellent resources for the community and schools to use” Member of local regeneration organisation

The outputs have been numerous and the outcomes and impact are evident. It has created interest and a whirl of activity in the area. As a member of steering group said: *“Wedi creu Bwrlwm Cymunedol”* (created a whirl in the community)

The work helped promote the area and has raised the profile of the many and diverse elements of the Tywi Valley.

“It has generally raised awareness within the communities.”

“It has shown people that live in the area what they have on their doorstep” Survey

⁶ Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013

The survey showed a mix of responses, this is probably due to the wide range of activities in the theme. Many strong responses indicated that the theme reinforced a sense of place and pride and increased use and enjoyment of the valley.

The officer post changed three times during the project, the volunteer officer covered during the gaps and carried out the work excellently, developing relationships and innovating projects. She was praised many times during the evaluation and the officer tying up the project also received high praise for his work. The organisation, management and administration were also commended.

“The staff listen, they really care”

“They are always ready to help – they can’t do enough they have been fantastic!” Artist

Partnerships with a wide range of organisations and groups enabled a high standard of work, the steering group’s strong role and good relationships were emphasised in stakeholder interviews. The partnership with the college was important; an example of collaboration includes the time the college brought their portable furnace for a public pouring of cast iron, a spectacular event and the sort of activity that has contributed to making this project different and memorable.

There were very good evaluation sheets used at project events, enabling the theme to gauge responses to activities and build on success. All events under this theme had positive feedback including the training for teachers.

“Education is more than schools and the theme certainly embraced the wider concept of lifelong learning.” Partnership board member

“I think it has been a brilliant foundation for this kind of work in the county - it could be an excellent spring board for starting all kinds of projects. It will be a shame if everything stops - please put things in place to continue the good work!” Survey

3.2 Exploration Tywi!

This theme was an investigation by the community into the origins and history of the Tywi Valley. An ingenious programme of activities was designed and led by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) which enabled people to go through the archaeological process from beginning to end. Having an outside organisation deliver this theme made it slightly different to the others: it did not have a steering group, it reported directly to the Landscape Partnership Board (LPB).

Local schools, local interest groups and members of the public explored the archaeology and geology of their landscape through a series of activities ranging from researching historic documents and photographs to digging on an archaeological excavation under the headings of: Reviewing the Evidence, Checking the Findings, Hedgerow Recording, Graveyard Survey, Testing the Theories. People could dip into activities or follow the whole process. This idea clearly worked.

The extensive development work which involved the community from the beginning of the project, contributed to the success of this theme; DAT consulted and asked the community what they wanted. Experts and members of the community came together. It was an opportunity for professionals to work with volunteers / community and vice versa.

“The professionals facilitated, tapped into knowledge and curiosity that was already there, they raised aspirations and helped people realise these.” Member of staff

Over 90 individual events were organized including recording woody species in an old hedgerow to establish its age, a Graveyard Survey and a three week excavation of a deserted farmstead. There was a mix of desk based work where people were invited into DAT's offices in Llandeilo, outings to the archives at Aberystwyth for example and also field work done locally. Exploration Tywi also ran a living history event on Garn Goch Iron Age hill fort bringing on board the other 3 TAYO themes. Over 2,000 people participated in Exploration Tywi. The results of the investigations carried out by the community are held in the Historic Environment Record at DAT and much is available to view or download through associated websites.

Engagement

Many people had contact with DAT before the project began. Having DAT located in the area was a great advantage. Some individuals became very involved, volunteering a great deal of time to the project. Many children and families engaged with the events and the theme worked well with schools and teachers. Exploration Tywi made sure that there was bilingual delivery by bringing a Welsh speaker onto the team and timed events so that some were on weekends, others during the evenings, enabling a wider range of people to attend.

Partnerships

CADW was one of the major partners and was supportive of the work. There were many other partners such as Aberystwyth and Lampeter Universities, the Environment Agency, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales, and the National Library of Wales. There was also a close working relationship with the county's biodiversity officer, and with museums and archives. New partnerships were forged such as with the battlefield group and existing partnerships were strengthened through the work of Exploration Tywi!

Garn Goch Event

DAT were approached by the Brecon Beacons National Parks to work on a celebration of archaeology at Garn Goch Iron Age Hill Fort. *“This was a fantastic success”* was the refrain from everyone spoken to... *“We have done groundbreaking work.”* Staff

Working across TAYO themes

There was a great deal of crossover with other themes within TAYO; Exploration Tywi worked closely with the Landscape & Biodiversity Officer who had the expertise on hedgerows; they received a grant to put in paths and wildflowers in the graveyard and church groups and community groups worked with them under the Discover Tywi theme. They also worked with the family history group, volunteers, the storyteller, walk leaders and farmers who received grants under TAYO.

Learning

The evaluation forms showed that people learned a great deal through working alongside professionals and attending training from professional archaeologists. The staff working on the project also felt they had learned a great deal.

Targets and Outputs

All targets were met with the slight variation of 'House Detective' where people found out about the history of local houses including their own, where 4 houses were explored instead of 5 but those 4 were done in greater depth. A highly successful conference at Tregib school with over 150 participants and a Festival of Archaeology are just two examples of events organised by the theme. A booklet was produced for all local schools and distributed widely. Many of the people interviewed commented on its quality, comprehensive content, usefulness and accessibility.

“Excellent booklet, informative and accessible.” Member of a steering group

Impact

This theme evaluated all its activities with evaluation forms adapted to suit the activities. The feedback was excellent and the activities have had a profound effect on individuals' lives. One person was so enthused they went on to do a degree and pursue a career in archaeology. Through getting involved many more people now appreciate their area and aspects of their local and personal heritage.

Some people came to the DAT offices to work and people did their own research under their own steam! A great deal of new information was gathered from going back into historical records; this is accessible on the DAT website and is an important legacy.

New networks and partnerships remain and existing ones are more solid as a result of the project. There was a feeling that at the end it was gathering steam and DAT are now having many requests from local groups and others in Wales and the UK.

“We have raised expectations with this project – so this is a challenge for the future” Staff

3.2.1 Conclusion

This theme was delivered by an outside organisation and it made every effort to be part of the TAYO team and integrate with its activities. There were regular meetings with the TAYO Project Manager and the Exploration Tywi officer attended team meetings regularly. She was also a member of all other steering groups representing DAT, this was useful in being able to identify opportunities for collaboration and cross fertilization and she was also able to offer heritage management advice.

The evaluations done by the theme were good; they included generic learning outcomes to help them focus on what had been achieved in the different activities.

The initial costing was not accurate as this sort of work had not been done before and so the project budget was tight. DAT ensured good financial monitoring systems and some staff worked on a voluntary basis. The theme gave a lot of added value.

Delivery of the Exploration Tywi! theme went out to tender and DAT an organisation based in the Tywi area was successful. This local partnership link and area expertise was clearly a big advantage in many respects. Some partnership board members expressed concern that the tender process could possibly have resulted in an organisation based at the other end of the country delivering the theme.

Engagement by the public was high, the flexibility of activities was good – people being able to dip in or commit to the whole project. The success of the theme was to a great extent due to the thorough development work and community consultations that took place at the beginning.

This was an innovative and new approach. A great deal was learned by all involved and there is a lasting legacy. However raised expectations in the community for continuing the activities will have to be managed. There are plans for this with a trainee about to join DAT but there are limited resources and DAT will need to work with local groups to secure their own funding.

Exploration Tywi clearly had a big impact on the community and on individuals. It is important that this type of community involvement is made possible in other places; it is a

model of good practice with demonstrable results. The booklet is an excellent legacy and there are plans for education packs.

“It was really good fun – we got a lot out of it!” - Participant

“The idea has worked – it has been a great success – we want to keep up the momentum”
Staff

3.3 The Traditional Sustainable Building Centre

This centre, established in 2009 to celebrate the built environment and local and traditional building styles. The centre, at Dinefwr Home Farm houses the TAYO project and is an example of a traditional and sustainable building. There are informative, eye-catching interpretation panels lining the walls on the ground floor putting the subject into the context of history and landscape.

One of the main aims of the theme was for the centre to become an accessible source of information and the evaluation shows that this has been achieved. It is now recognised as a place to come for a comprehensive range of information services including specialist surgeries for homeowners, a directory of heritage builders and craftsmen and information fact sheets. Another main aim was to provide new opportunities for learning and many courses and training opportunities were provided at the centre for people to learn traditional building skills and about the restoration and maintenance of old buildings. People came from far and wide to learn. Other courses included: use of new technology and renewable materials in old buildings. Courses were run by organisations such as Tŷ Mawr Lime and Coleg Sir Gar.

The centre has indeed become a centre of excellence, focusing on traditional sustainable building excellence in the Tywi Valley, and a hub for West Wales. It provided a focus for the provision of training in the area alongside being an accessible advice and information centre.

Its other aims included developing business potential in the area and exploring the use of new materials and methods that are sustainable. This has been achieved through the many partnerships and networks developed and the reputation the centre has gained. The success was largely due to the enthusiasm of the project officer who worked in a strategic manner to develop the work.

“It was important to appoint the right people - being approachable is important, so that people come to you when they want help” Steering Group member

The centre was set up after considerable research, networking and consultation. This paid off as was commented on by a member of the steering group:

“In the beginning the project found out what people wanted – looked at good practice – ascertained what this was.” Steering Group member

This element of the TAYO project has secured future funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the delivery of a heritage skills bursary scheme; this will ensure the centre continues to be closely involved with employers, trainers and all those working in heritage building in South West Wales.

Outputs

The Centre ran 6 information days, held 8 presentations and ran over 30 training events (13 one day events and 17 two day events).

Old House Surgeries run by the Lime Company Wales were popular; the TAYO officer also delivered courses and one to one training. The training covered all aspects of traditional sustainable building from the use of materials to repair and renovation, decoration, plastering, woodwork and thatching. An informative leaflet for homeowners of pre1919 buildings was produced and proved popular. Leaflets and promotional literature were produced on subjects such as the Investigation of Historic Thatch at Coedweddus and the restoration of Ty Picca / Penlan Park gates.

All participants completed evaluation forms which were analysed. Participants were asked if training met objectives, if it had been useful, and about the quality of delivery. Each participant had an attendance certificate and all notes from presenters were kept on file at the centre for future reference.

“Innovative” and “accessible” are words that have been used to describe the training offered.

“The open day was brilliant and very well attended” – Survey

Events

The Apple Day Event was a highlight; many people in the surveys and during interviews commented on it. A Victorian apple store was restored and the Apple Day was a celebration of old orchards and the building. The centre now has an apple press available for use by the public. The centre held many open days which were well attended with positive feedback.

Partnerships

To become a centre of excellence it is essential to work in partnership with a range of people and organisations. The centre worked with key partners such as Building Control and the Building Research Establishment., The Sector Skills Council, the National Trust and CADW and most of these organisations are represented on the steering group. Another key partner was Coleg Sir Gar; college staff delivered many training events and offered other support to the centre.

“The partnership and the relationship with Coleg Sir Gar is crucial. Learning new skills is so important for the future – will ensure it continues”. Partner organisation

The officer had an extensive database of all employers working in heritage building in the area. This was used in order to conduct the consultation to develop the training plan for the Heritage Lottery Bursary Scheme. As a result, a network of Heritage Building Employers is being established to provide work placements for trainees in the first instance and then to develop other and more strategic functions as it becomes established.

“The steering group is brilliant – linking with other organisations and people such as local builders. “ Survey

Other partners include suppliers of traditional and sustainable building materials, those delivering training and associated businesses such as architects.

“The steering group has strengthened partnership working on a regional (South Wales) level i.e. between Construction Skills, National Heritage Training Group and training providers etc - not sure how much its strengthened partnership working locally.”

Heritage Builder

Outcomes and Impact

“It is excellent that the centre has been established to raise awareness and to promote sustainable building practices” Partner organisation

The centre raised awareness of traditional and sustainable building issues in the Tywi area and beyond. It provided skills training for students of construction skill, for people working in the building industry and for the general public and homeowners. The Heritage Building Bursary Scheme will continue the excellent work done and the network of Heritage Builders created to support the project will develop and be a lasting legacy, supporting traditional and sustainable building in the area for many years to come.

3.3.1 Conclusion

This theme had a significant impact in raising the profile and skills levels of heritage building in the area. From the survey, interviews and from reviewing the project files it is clear that the Traditional and Sustainable Building theme has realised its aims and delivered to a high standard. As well as providing information and advice, educating, raising awareness and delivering training, the theme also provided a vehicle for networking between different organisations / contractors in the area. The way it was set up was considered and proved to be a successful strategy.

“This was a brand new idea – and it has been very successful” Partner organisation

The Traditional and Sustainable Building officer is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, approachable and committed. This was frequently commented upon:

“Enthusiasm and being positive is important – and the staff are! Being approachable is important – so that people come to you when they want help.”

“Someone who enjoys their work – this is important – and it shows – it is reflected in the success of the project.”

“She is very approachable – this is important in order to get people interested and keep them involved and they are more likely to come to the centre for advice and information – and they do”

“It's difficult to assess how well the buildings centre has reached and converted those who are not aware of the issues behind traditional building techniques. I think there is an awakening amongst homeowners which the TAYO centre has encouraged and supported. Whether there are new converts - I don't know, I hope so.” From Survey

One of the main challenges was to engage with potential partners and some people in the construction industries that remain sceptical of traditional and sustainable building materials and methods. There are many more opportunities on the horizon to develop more partnerships.

“Getting the message across to those who are happily engaged with inappropriate building techniques and materials.” From survey

The work of the Centre stimulated discussions amongst those working in construction, training and heritage building and the officer worked at a strategic level, seeing what needed to be done and who needed to be involved.

“The Centre has gained the respect of people working in the field’ From Survey

This was a focused theme, its audience and partners were well defined, however, it also achieved its aim of raising awareness with the general public. The education side will develop over the next few years, with the bursary scheme starting in March 2011. A good foundation was laid during the first three years, many initiatives put in place and good partnerships and relationships developed.

“I am working on the future – for sustainability” TAYO Officer

“It is really important that this has been established. It has been set up very successfully. Sustainability is here to stay and so I think it will last.” Head of building control

3.4 Landscape and Biodiversity

The Landscape and Biodiversity theme encompassed the Tirwedd Tywi grant scheme; it administered £377,000 in grants under the Welsh Assembly Government Rural Development Plan (RDP). The grants offered farmers, landowners and community groups funding to carry out projects to enhance and conserve the Tywi valley such as laying hedges and creating ponds, consistent with the implementation of specific actions set out in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). This contributed to restoring, improving, expanding and creating habitats notably woodlands, farmland and wetlands in order to increase biodiversity and raise awareness of priority species in the area. The officer gave advice on appropriate management of habitats to support grant recipients. Priority species in the project area included brown hairstreak, dormouse, species of bat and tree sparrow.

It was important to involve community groups as well as landowners and farmers in the grant scheme and it is evident that the theme succeeded in doing this. The first round of funding letters were sent out in early January 2009 and there was an immediate response due to the excellent groundwork and networks that the project officer had already developed through TAYO, the partnership board and steering group.

Outputs

When the project began it was estimated that Tirwedd Tywi grants would enable the:

- restoration of around 18,000m of hedgerows by employing traditional methods of laying or coppicing
- creation or restoration of 15 ponds
- planting of around 300 native trees

The figures as of the end of March 2011 are shown below. Each area of work has recorded a high level of detail, however in this report only some detail is shown to give an indication of achievements.

Boxes		
Own – 10	Bat – 16	Bird - 228

Fencing 40, 906 m

Hedgerow – 22,315	Pond - 1,565	River corridor - 8,221	Veteran Tree- 280	Woodland - 2,525
-----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

Footpath Creation -	
Oxbow boardwalk – 42m	Path – 50m

SPECIAL PROJECTS								
Otter holts 0	Stile - 2	Water trough – 14	Waymark – 1	Riparian zone – 238	Stone walls (m2) - 60	Wildflower planting – 2	Little ringed plover - 1	Bench – 2

- **Gates 100**
- **Hedgerows – 15, 243m**
- **Tree Planting – 1, 462 (various species)**
- **Ponds – 16; meters squared – 5, 715;**

Many of the targets were exceeded, and the theme worked on projects and in ways that were unanticipated. All work was done to a high standard; this was evident from the records kept on each grant and from the survey and interviews. The level of funding was crucial in enabling the work to be completed. There were detailed plans and evidence of a great deal of consultation.

Grants were only given for work done to certain specifications, for example: gates had to be constructed from traditional materials and to one of a few traditional designs such as Carmarthenshire style Welsh oak gates. This resulted in quality and consistency. This theme was also seen to contribute to the rural economy through use of contractors to carry out the work.

Training Courses

Subsidised training courses and free volunteer events were put on to engage the local community and also to provide people with the knowledge, information and skills needed to manage the natural environment in a sustainable way. Nearly all courses were free and well attended, they included: Parkland and Veteran Tree Management, Pond Management, Hedgerow Management and Planting, Woodland Management, Hedge laying, Watercourse Management and Orchard Management.

Outcomes, Wider Benefits and Impact

Landscape features that benefited from TAYO grants will mature over the coming years and remain as a lasting legacy. All the achievements of the scheme will require monitoring and some maintenance in the future; more work is required to ensure these benefits are fully realised.

The Landscape & Biodiversity officer worked closely with the Conservation and Biodiversity officers in the county. The project was designed in order to help meet LBAP targets for the county and has helped meet these targets.

“This has delivered biodiversity on the ground – It is really important work – nobody else is doing it on this scale.” Biodiversity officer

Grants Administration

Grant applications and documentation relating to all grants were kept in an excellent filing system at the Tywi Centre. This included photos, correspondence, invoices, quotes, scoring process, farm plan, monitoring form, telephone log, site visit reports, claims, signing off letters and any other relevant paperwork. The grant process was praised by grant recipients:

“... – the staff were remarkably helpful and it was all very straightforward, in contrast to what we’ve experienced in the past”

Themed Routes

Links between the community and the landscape were developed through the creation of themed walks. This crossed over substantially with Discover Tywi. Walk leaflets featured elements of Landscape and Biodiversity, giving information on habitat and species along a route. The leaflets received some criticism for lack of clarity in terms of directions given; however they offered interesting information and were attractive.

Partnerships

The close working relationship with the conservation and biodiversity officers was important, there were also partnerships with all those represented on the steering group: The Countryside Council of Wales (CCW), South and West Wales Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the National Farmers Union (NFU). They were able to offer advice and also formed networks with experts who supported the work. The partners were also able to liaise between the project and farmers, landowners and community group. Coleg Sir Gar was also a key partner, delivering training.

Cross over and working with the other TAYO themes enabled people to learn about and apply for grants and for grant recipients to find out about other aspects of work in landscape and heritage in the area.

Challenges – the main challenge staff changes. There were substantial periods without an officer, however the volunteer officer, who had a background in biodiversity, covered and it is apparent that the work was done to an excellent standard.

“Staff were knowledgeable , helpful and clear. They came out at the beginning we were all clear about what they were funding” Grant recipient

The timescale for the delivery of the project caused some challenges; it started 6 months after the expected date, also it was a relatively short term project aiming to have an impact in a landscape that has taken thousands of years to evolve.

3.4.1 Conclusion

LBAP targets were met through the Tirwedd Tywi grant work. The theme was successful in all aspects. From the survey and interviews the main areas of success were:

- increased use of local styles and methods,
- increased skills levels - for future maintenance of the valley,

- links developed between local community and landscape and a reinforced sense of place and pride.

The theme clearly showed how to use sustainable methods and materials in maintaining and enhancing the environment in a practical way. The strengths of the theme were its focused approach and the way it engaged with communities, landowners and farmers. The administration was impeccable and the excellent communication skills of the staff contributed substantially to success as they let people know about the grants and worked with recipients throughout.

“It is not easy to start something new – have to get people to buy into it” Survey

The community grants as well as grants for landowners and farmers meant that a broad range of people were able to benefit.

“Photographed it all at the end as well – very thorough” Landowner

The administration of Tirwedd Tywi improved as the project developed.

“I know a lot about these sorts of schemes – this was a pleasant surprise – even the administration was not cumbersome!” Landowner

Staff were knowledgeable, enthusiastic and committed possessing an excellent range of skills including interpersonal ones which were crucial to success. Staff said that they would do one thing differently in future: ensure interim site visits. This will take place with future projects.

The only concern voiced during the evaluation was the short term nature of the project and the need to continue with this sort of work.

“Protecting the environment for the future is important to us and we managed to do in 6 months what we had planned to do in 5 years because of the Tirwedd Tywi grant”
Landowner

“I am absolutely amazed at what has been achieved!” Biodiversity officer

4. Volunteering

The volunteer officer worked with all themes and people volunteered across all activities of TAYO. As previously, stated, due to the staff turnover in the Discover Tywi and Landscape and Biodiversity themes and also maternity leave, the volunteer officer spent a great deal of time covering work. However as part of that work she was able to integrate the volunteering element. The cross over between themes and the collaboration was evident in the way volunteers worked across them and on more than one theme. Some volunteers worked on one theme primarily such as Exploration Tywi!

The way volunteers became involved varied. They heard about it from their children, from posters, attended events then volunteered or heard about opportunities through word of mouth.

The officer was successful in engaging with groups in the area and attended events and focus groups. She said: *“I see my role more as a community officer, involving people and working with communities.”*

5. Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd – Key Findings

Fulfilling Its Aims and Making a Difference

The project achieved significant success through its diverse range of activities and projects under the TAYO framework. Members of the board who responded to the survey felt that among the most important achievements were:

- an increase in the number of community events,
- a legacy of landscape features,
- improvements in the environment and increased biodiversity for generations to enjoy,
- increased understanding and appreciation of the built environment, history and archaeology of the valley by a wide variety of local residents and visitors of all ages.
- the themes being integrated and built into one all encompassing project.

“Engaging people in the area, opening their eyes to the possibilities within their local landscape and facilitating and encouraging them to appreciate its ‘richness’.”

Member of the Landscape Partnership Board

“New ways of working – refreshing – I did things I hadn’t done before.” – Beneficiary

The project kept very close to the original specification. All members of staff saw this level of detail as a good thing, giving structure and solidity. *“We have kept at it closely, not in every single detail, but mostly. Having everything laid down in so much detail was good”.*

The delivery of certain elements by outside organisations worked very well. Those organisations became partners in effect and have become advocates of TAYO. Many were interviewed and spoke highly of the team and their experience of working with them and people in the Tywi Valley.

The vision was clearly conceived and articulated and thorough research and background work was done prior to the start of the project and this paid off. Staff commented: *“The background was there – clear aims and vision”.* Staff also mentioned that at times it felt that some elements were too target driven *“We could do this better and be less driven by targets and numbers.”* However this is the nature of grant funded work.

TAYO achieved its aims and objectives as well as reaching all targets set by the funders, it also did a lot more:

Creativity was strongly present in the Discover Tywi theme. Sculptures, mosaic, quilting, theatre and storytelling were among the outputs and trained storytellers are continuing to spread the myths and legends of the area.

Community Regeneration - Through giving people the skills and knowledge to sustain and develop activities independently the lasting impact of TAYO will be realised. It was a good example of community empowerment and regeneration in action. Local business benefited through raised awareness of the valley, participating in new networks and partnerships and in supplying materials and goods for buildings and events.

Enjoyment and learning took place at all levels through people engaging with TAYO; people benefited from training, talks, volunteering and a range of activities from building a boardwalk, archaeological digs to restoration work. The Food Festival, The Garn Goch

event and the Lantern Parade were huge successes and excellent examples of events where the community enjoyed and learned

Training was delivered across the themes, from workshops in aspects of traditional Sustainable Building, to the training of walk leaders and storytellers.

New Resources were made available to businesses and the community:resources for schools; a booklet on the Exploration Tywi! Project, Walk leaflets, information leaflets on various aspects of traditional sustainable building and many more tangible outputs from the project such as the plaques on local businesses.

Tirwedd Tywi Grants enabled many landowners, farmers and community groups to improve habitats and landscape for people and wildlife.

Engagement and participation levels were consistently high across TAYO activities. The project succeeded in reaching and working with a diverse range of people. The number of people engaged with was high; schools, many community groups and individuals participated in a variety of ways. People travelled from all over Wales to some specialist events but the majority of participants were from the local area and other parts of Carmarthenshire. Through getting involved people gained an appreciation of their area, their history, heritage and features such as their own houses.

Awareness and knowledge of the area increased and improved, new discoveries were made and research was thorough and comprehensive. As well as Exploration Tywi the tithe maps are a good example of this where local schools, volunteers (one person worked 1 day a week for 3 months on this) and Discover worked to update them. More people are now aware of the natural and cultural heritage of the area and as a result are imbued with an increased sense of place and pride.

“Raised awareness of the local environment, particularly as a new comer to the Valley” – Survey

The Website is one of the added value outputs that will need some consideration and work over the coming months in order to ensure information and resources continue to be available for people to access. It is an attractive site but comments on it indicate that it is not up to date and remains superficial.

The local economy has been improved; TAYO has brought money in through contractors, people to deliver the project and people such as caterers for the events. It is likely that there will be innumerable spin offs over the coming years such as increased tourism and small businesses being set up due to confidence and up-skilling.

Below is a list of some of the HLF funded activities and numbers engaged with for 2010:

	Activities	Beneficiaries
Primary schools worked with	7	694
Secondary schools worked with	1	1009
Colleges/universities worked with	1	211
Youth groups worked with	3	10
Community groups worked with	8	87
Community consultation events held	11	343
Total	31	2345

	Activities	Beneficiaries
Learning resources/packs	4	1703
School visits to site	5	
Outreach visits to schools	35	694
Vocational learning sessions for pupils/students	13	182
Family learning activities	4	33
Adult learning activities	15	106
Teacher training	16	12
Oral history projects	1	
Language projects	8	
Open days	1	250
Festivals/re-enactments etc	4	3000
Exhibitions/displays	2	250
Guided tours/walks	7	
Creation of new space for learning	1	
Total	116	6527

Beneficiaries

In total the project reached over 5,000 people and this is a conservative estimate, it was probably over 6,000 including participants at all events. From an analysis of the Tywi beneficiary database on 14th March 2011, the following figures give an indication of participation.

Total number of beneficiaries - 591; it is anticipated that the final figure will be much more. There were non-reporters and so figures are approximate:

- Under 16 29%
- 17 - 20 4%
- 21 – 25 3%
- 26 – 30 5%
- 30 – 40 12%
- 41 – 50 13%
- 50 + 34%

56% were male and 44% female.

Nearly half were fluent Welsh speakers and over 20% of those over 30 years of age reported that they were learners.

Of those that did report where they were from 83% were from Carmarthenshire, the majority (approximately 80% of these) were from the Tywi area. The specialist courses attracted people from further afield. Some came from other parts of Wales from Gwent to Gwynedd and 3 from England.

Volunteers

In the survey half the respondents were also volunteers on the project. Their volunteering experiences were varied and all positive. Some volunteered regularly, some only once; some worked on one theme, Exploration Tywi! in particular had a core of dedicated volunteers, but most had volunteered across themes and on a variety of activities. Some activities specifically for volunteers included an environmental clean-up project. Volunteers also received training such as first aid and training for walk leaders.

Events

A great many events were organised by TAYO: workshops, courses, large events, small events, too many to describe. Please see Appendix 2 for the calendar of events for 2010

Between October and December 2009 a total of 31 events were held and 845 participants recorded. In 2010 a total of 111 events were recorded.

From the survey it appears that a large proportion of people attended activities and events on their own (83%), others came with family and others. This shows the wide appeal of TAYO's offer.

"My son (12) was interested, and we both enjoyed our day". – Survey

"All events were exceptionally well organised and the staff/ volunteers friendly and welcoming." Survey

Management and Project Structure

"The partnership brought its skills and expertise - a very diverse range of people who bring a diverse range of expertise and knowledge to the project. This has enabled the vision to be realised and for it to develop and grow" Member of Landscape Partnership Board

The Landscape Partnership Board brought a great deal of expertise to TAYO including: education, planning, building, conservation and archaeology and farming.

This partnership approach was essential given the diverse nature of TAYO. The project reported to the Board however the team were given free rein to develop activities as the project plan and targets were explicit. Most of the steering groups had a direct involvement with the work of the project. Exploration Tywi! With no steering group would have appreciated more feedback on their work from the TAYO perspective.

"The steering group is good – partnership is fantastic – huge potential to do more with this support and structure in place "External partner

Having the same people on the partnership board and on steering groups was good and also some people were on more than one steering group – this gave cross fertilization and broader networking and support. All meetings were well organised and information flow was good.

"Being on the partnership board and steering group helps to identify links across the project themes." From Survey

Partnership

TAYO clearly valued partnership working and created partnerships, collaboration and co-operation wherever possible; it maintained communication with a broad network of individuals, organisations, groups, landowners and communities across the area.

Staffing

Since November 2008 a team of highly skilled, motivated and committed staff worked to ensure TAYO was an innovative and successful project. Staff were well qualified with a wealth of experience and expertise in their areas of operation. The team had knowledge and understanding of the communities in Carmarthenshire, the landscape and ecosystems, the history and the heritage. The Discover theme in particular worked with a very wide range of people such as artists, farmers, teachers, young people, children, this was challenging and

the staff with their positive attitude and interpersonal skills managed admirably as was clear from the feedback.

The team worked well together and pulled together during difficult times; there was a strong team ethos. They offered expertise on a diverse range of areas. Bilingualism and local knowledge along with commitment, enthusiasm and interpersonal skills all contributed to success and were vital components of TAYO.

“The staff are passionate and enthusiastic, nothing is too much trouble” Partner organisation

The Project Manger steered the project over the last year and ensured a successful closure with positive results for ongoing funding and project development.

“It is crucial to have vision and purpose and commitment – for heritage and the community and the area.” – Member of Staff

“The main purpose is to enthuse and engage and excite people about the area –all aspects of TAYO – so they can feel part of it – landscape, history – everything!” Member of Staff

The fact that the team was adaptable and able to cover during times of staff turnover was an important element in the project’s success story.

Administration and Systems

The administrator’s role was central to all aspects of TAYO and was a backbone for the project. The administrator, because of staff turnover had to take on a range of duties that were not in her job description. She fulfilled all aspects of her role to a high standard from organising meetings, completing claims, assisting the project manager and general day to day information flow and record keeping. The West Wales European Centre praised TAYO for its claim process.

Funding Streams

There were two different funding Streams – RDP and HLF. The RDP was not easy administratively, with many rules and regulation however TAYO’s good administration and systems and the support from the grant managers at the West Wales European Centre (WVEC) ensured that monitoring, reporting and claim procedures ran smoothly. WVEC also supported the project team with training which was of a high standard. They also did a mini audit and this gave the team valuable guidance at the start of the project.

Focus Groups

One of the objectives of the focus groups was to track any increase in people’s understanding of the valley. This objective was not really met as questions asked were too broad and the people attending events were a mix of new attendees and some people who had previous contact with the project. One of the original ideas in the specification was to have focus groups with the same people but it was deemed impractical and so they were woven into events in an unobtrusive way, becoming more like consultation events. They were successful on this level increasing community engagement and understanding.

The data was collected in imaginative and clear ways, however much of the data was very general as shown below.

How much contact with TAYO		
Nothing	A bit	A lot

How much do you know about the history of the area?

Nothing	A bit	A lot
---------	-------	-------

Monitoring and Evaluation

Systems for recording activities were good, the beneficiary database was complete but could have captured more data and been better constructed to enable more sophisticated queries. This has been recognised and will be a consideration for future work. Improving data collection systems and documenting all aspects of work was viewed as a priority by staff.

Marketing

There was no marketing strategy in place, some opportunities were missed and marketing activity was inconsistent, however it improved over the term of the project. One member of staff who organised her own marketing training said this was very beneficial for her and the project. A more coordinated, strategic approach to marketing with a monitoring process in place was advocated; however, the marketing undertaken was very effective on the whole.

A regular column in the Carmarthen Journal was an excellent marketing tool and a way of disseminating information about activities, the TAYO message and for letting people know about achievements. Many publications were used to disseminate information including: Country & Farming, Papur Bro –Y Lloffwr and the Biodiversity Partnership Newsletter.

Posters and all publications were effective and respondents in the survey and those interviewed had found out about TAYO in different ways. From the survey 35% had read an article in the local paper, others had heard through word of mouth, through a community group, from project staff and some from advertisements in the local paper. The website was a source of information and promoted TAYO and its activities.

Comprehensive marketing files were kept with all press cutting and copies of adverts and posters. There was good coverage at the beginning of the project including coverage on S4C news and Radio Cymru. A priority for the future will be to disseminate achievements.

Staff Training

Staff training came late in the project. The training that was offered was of a high standard, it included procurement and risk management, this was organised by WWEC. All staff, on reflection thought that a more strategic approach should have been taken and that they would have benefited from training (near the beginning) in marketing, managing complex budgets and monitoring in particular.

Key Challenges

Delivering a 3 year project in 2 ½ years was a challenge for everyone. All four themes found it difficult and worked hard to deliver in the timescale given and to co-ordinate activities to fit in with project plans.

The project was without a manager for 6 months and during this period staff morale became low. The new Project Manager had a difficult job in steering the project and making sure all elements delivered on time. Due to its size, complex nature and level of activity, managing the project was a big challenge. Staff turnover on the Discover theme caused problems and as mentioned other members of staff covered well to ensure its success. Recruitment was slow and it is not known if this was unavoidable.

Exploration Tywi! being delivered by an outside agency did well to integrate however there were challenges with this, especially at the beginning.

The website was a concern as it was a very public face for TAYO and an opportunity to make resources available to all. The management of website development and access online to the project's resources was not taken up early enough. Exploration Tywi! put information on the DAT website but it would have been preferable to have all TAYO resources and information on the TAYO website.

Some practical challenges such as physical boundaries were a slight problem with landowners and one partner commented on how the river as a resource for all sorts of work had not been exploited by TAYO because of issues with private landowners and fishing rights.

Short term funding was a concern echoed by many. Will the achievements be maintained? Will the resources developed, the landscape features and various initiatives be sustained? As the funding comes to an end there are levels of uncertainty on how the work can be taken forward, creating stress for all involved.

“The work had just gained momentum – it is a shame that these things are short term – so much more could be done if it continued.” Partner organisation

TAYO has raised expectations with stakeholders and the wider community, responding to these expectations will be a challenge for the future.

Lasting Legacy

“Raising awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the valley will help to secure future conservation and protection.” Beneficiary – Survey

The long term legacies are many. All the training given led to skills development, improved knowledge and enhanced confidence. The storytellers and walk leaders are carrying on with this work and some groups such as the mosaic group and a print group have set up independently. The teacher training had a wide reach and a big impact. The training given to landowners enabled them to manage habitats for the future benefit of all.

Research and new knowledge will benefit generations in the future as will the many resources from the themes.

“Success – not only in terms of skills developed and awareness – but the main objective was that through understanding people will take this on in the future.” Staff

This innovative project is an example of good practice and it is hoped that elements of it can be replicated in other parts of the county.

“People from different areas have seen what’s been done here and hopefully similar initiatives will take root in other parts of Wales.” Staff

There are of course the tangible outputs and resources mentioned throughout the report, such as the water pump and apple press which will be there for community use and the many environmental improvements under the Tirwedd Tywi grant scheme.

Some events were so successful that other organisations are making sure they continue such as Menter Bro Dinefwr taking on the Food Festival.

The Tywi Centre building is a lasting legacy in itself; it is visible in the community and will remain a hub, a focal point.

The new information such as tithe maps and historical records will be available on the website.

New networks and partnerships made and strengthened as a result of TAYO will remain and develop; these are an important part of the infrastructure that supports rural development.

The learning of the staff and partners is a valuable legacy and this will be passed on as well as the learning of participants.

“It is the future! We have build something good that will develop and grow – the next projects will be stronger and more focused we have the experience now – it is achievable.” - Staff

There was clear evidence of need identified, of what works and what does not work, this can now be built on and lessons learned.

6. Conclusion

TAYO was a diverse and complex project; it made the most of the funding it received, creating an inspiring, innovative project framework, rooted in the community. It has left a lasting legacy through the learning of people, the relationships and connections made as well as the resources and tangible outputs. TAYO was driven by vision and purpose. It contributed to community/rural regeneration in many ways.

The detailed project specification and the thorough consultation and research contributed to the smooth running of TAYO. The themes all worked well. There were some communication and management difficulties due mainly to staff turnover but the skills and commitment of staff enabled the project to remain buoyant and to continue to improve.

“Lots of energy – the people who work on the project – always looking for new things to do “

Partnership board member

The project was well managed, if a little lacking in leadership at times due largely to circumstances and a 6 month gap without a project manager. The administration was excellent and the systems for monitoring, record keeping and reporting good. Monitoring and gathering data could have been done in a more meaningful and considered way; best done at the beginning in order to inform delivery. The data gathered from focus groups could have been more considered and put to better use and the evaluation done at an earlier stage.

The project complied with all necessary protocol such as conducting the proper risk assessment when necessary.

“They did everything by the book” - Grant recipient

There were excellent examples of community and rural regeneration /development work. The experiences of people and groups were very positive across a diverse range. As the project progressed the team made more contacts and developed an understanding of how to engage with the harder to reach groups e.g. special needs pupils, if work continues this could be done earlier in the future

TAYO built capacity in the local area, contributing to social and cultural capital as well as to the economy. The economy will benefit due to the knock on effects of the project outcomes.

This was an innovative, creative, dynamic project from the beginning, the initial vision and the right staff to take it forward enabled outstanding results and an example of good practice in many areas.

Partnership was crucial to success, the Landscape Partnership Board, the steering groups and the many networks developed over the past 3 years. The Exploration Tywi! theme, delivered by DAT, an external organisation would have benefited from greater feedback from TAYO.

The learning outcomes were far reaching, and encompassed children and adults, some intergenerational work was done and the Discover theme was flexible enough to explore

ways of working that ultimately proved to be successful. There were many excellent examples of best practice in education.

“We got exactly what we wanted” – Local Teacher

Having staff who were local and Welsh speaking was important and bilingualism has been evident throughout.

Marketing activity was effective but patchy and a more coordinated and strategic approach to marketing would have benefited TAYO. Different communication strategies were explored and used with good results. The website could have been developed and managed better and hopefully it will be updated in the future with TAYO resources made fully accessible.

*“Website has been inadequate, we need a proper website – it has been a difficult area.”*Staff

Staff training came late in the day and was therefore not effective; where there was training it was good. Training could have been more forthcoming from partnership organisations and support agencies.

The project gained in momentum as it progressed and a frequently mentioned concern was its short term nature. It was hoped by all that TAYO would continue its work. It has raised expectations in the area and this is a challenge for the future. Ongoing maintenance of improvements is an issue as stated in an interview:

“An oak tree takes 400 years to reach maturity – needs to be looked after - But you have to do the work anyway – better than doing nothing – you just have to hope!”

7. Recommendations

- The overriding recommendation is that this work continues, that funding is sought to continue all aspects of the work Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd has developed.
- Widely disseminating information about the project and its achievements is important. It is an example of good practice and the outcomes and the process should be disseminated.
- The dissemination should take place at different levels in and in different ways – at a local level through local media and also in specialist publications. The project’s networks and partnerships can assist with this.
- The success and achievements of strands and themes within the project should also be disseminated as good practice to relevant interest groups and publications.
- A more systematic approach to data collection and use of data for project monitoring and evaluation needs to be considered for the future.
- Building on good feedback methods used in focus groups, using questionnaires more effectively and also having baseline indicators in place for future work is also recommended. HLF evaluation guidance offers good examples.
- Having contingency plans in place for staff turnover is advisable.
- A plan for future maintenance of the work done by the project would be desirable. Landscape features that benefited from TAYO grants will mature over the coming

years and remain as a lasting legacy. All the achievements of the scheme will require monitoring and some maintenance in the future.

- Strategies for sustaining and supporting the strong partnerships and network links developed would be beneficial in future projects.

(a recommendation from a board member: There are lots of groups/organisations in the Tywi area working in environment and heritage such as the National Botanic Gardens, Aberglasney and many others. It might be useful if everyone was discussing the issues and collaborating, there could be a great deal of synergy. Working together and having a coordinated approach makes sense; it would enable connections to be made and it would avoid competition and duplication. Everyone, including education could benefit from joined up thinking. *"With a critical threshold things could really take off."*)

- Any future projects/developments would benefit from strategic approaches to:
 - Staff Training- A Training Needs Analysis carried out with all project staff and inclusion of an ongoing staff training programme to support the project.
 - Marketing and dissemination - A Marketing strategy developed and training in marketing methods offered to ensure consistency and effective marketing and dissemination of project activities and achievements.
 - Website development – website management taken seriously from the beginning and maintained throughout the project. A website should not be an 'add on', it is integral to marketing and dissemination and helps with accessibility in that resources and information are available to all.

Appendix 1

Partnership Board Survey - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TAYO Partnership Board](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TAYO_Partnership_Board)

Steering Group Surveys -

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Darganfod Tywi](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Darganfod_Tywi)

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Traditional Sustainable Building Centre](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Traditional_Sustainable_Building_Centre)

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Landscape and Biodiverstiy](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Landscape_and_Biodiverstiy)

Beneficiary/volunteer survey - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Tywi Evaluation](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Tywi_Evaluation)

Appendix 2

Calendar of Events 2010

CALENDR DIGWYDDIADAU
2010

TYWI AFON YR OESOEDD



TYWI A RIVER THROUGH TIME

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DYDDIAD DATE	DIGWYDDIAD EVENT	NO. PARTICIPANTS
18 Jan 2010	Storytelling Training Day for Volunteers with Michael Harvery - Welsh Medium	4
19 Jan 2010	Storytelling Training Day for Volunteers with Michael Harvery - English Medium	11
21 Jan 2010	Business Seminar @ The Fig Tree, Dryslwyn with Angharad Wynne 'Sense of Place'	9
25 Jan & 1 Feb 2010	Introduction to Lime Plastering (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	5
25 Jan 2010	First Aid Course for Walk Leaders	8 volunteers
26 Jan & 2 Feb 2010	Doors and Door Frames (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	3
27 Jan 2010	Ar y Fwydlen @ Llangadog Rugby Club Llandeilo RFC v Llangadog RFC Judges: Heledd Cynwal, Arwyn Davies; Dafydd Hywel	8 Team members 3 Judges + audience
27 Jan 2010	Michael Harvey Training Day for teachers / supply teachers / volunteers / Home Education Group	5
28 Jan 2010	Michael Harvey Training Day for Primary Teachers – Welsh Medium. Members of staff from five different primary schools present	10
28 Jan 2010	Theatre in the Landscape – Small World Theatre Group - Focus Evening @ Salem Village Hall. Launch of information and question time as well as recruiting	9 Adults 6 Children

	of volunteers for next theatre event.	
29 Jan 2010	Storytelling with Michael Harvey and Esyllt Harker with volunteer participation. A Celebration of Love Stories - Santes Dwynwen @ Gelli Aur Village Hall. Evening Event.	7 Adults
1 Feb 2010	First Aid Course for Walk Leaders	8 volunteers
6 February 2010	Exploration Tywi! Exhibition and Display at Council for British Archaeology AGM at Llandybie	
8 Feb & 22 Feb 2010	Lath work, wattle and daub (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	7
8 Feb 2010	First Aid Course for Walk Leaders	8 volunteers
8 Feb 2010	Tinamaria Morse, Learning and Interpretation Officer talk with "Cymdeithas Capel Y Tabernacl".	20
9 Feb & 23 Feb 2010	Repairs to Floors and Wall Plates (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	5
10 Feb & 24 Feb 2010	Jointing, Pointing and Repointing (Masonry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	5
11 Feb 2010	Michael Harvey Story Telling at Dinefwr Castle with groups of children with learning difficulties from Pantycelyn Secondary School. All day activity.	Group 1. 6 pupils Group 2. 9 pupils
12 Feb 2010	Michael Harvey Story Telling at Dinefwr Castle with groups of children with learning difficulties from Tregib Secondary School. All day activity.	Group 1. 10 pupils Group 2. 11 pupils
18 Feb 2010	Pond Management Course @ Coleg Sir Gâr, Gelli Aur	5

23 Feb 2010	Focus Evening - Storytelling with Michael Harvey @ Bethlehem Village Hall. Evening Event.	7
25 Feb 2010	Restoration of Dinefwr Beech Clumps, Llandeilo Planting of 100 Beech Trees by Steps 2 group which helps adults with learning disabilities into employment and training	8
26 February 2010	Exploration Tywi! Friends of Llandeilo Library talk in St Teilo's	
27 February 2010	Exploration Tywi! Exhibition and Display at Geopark event 'Footsteps through Time' at the Castle Hotel, Llandovery	
27 February 2010	Exploration Tywi! Graveyard Recording at St Teilo's Graveyard	
27 Feb 2010	Wild Flower planting in St. Teilo's Church Yard	11
1 & 8 March 2010	Practical Lime Plastering (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	4
2 & 9 March 2010	Sash Window Repair (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	4
3 & 11 March 2010	Using Lime in Historic Buildings (Masonry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	2
3 March 2010	Theatre in the Landscape - First meeting with Llangadog Primary School. Afternoon Session.	45 pupils
3 March 2010	Theatre in the Landscape - follow on meeting to recruit for next performance. First meeting in Llangadog community. Venue: Llangadog Rugby Club. Evening Meeting.	16 Adults 16 Children
9 March 2010	Michael Harvey – Story Telling – local stories Cwrt Henri Primary School. All day event.	Whole School Participation of all year groups during 3 different sessions.
10 March 2010	Michael Harvey – Story Telling – local stories Ffairfach Primary School. All day event.	Morning Session 10 pupils Yr 5

		3 pupils Yr 6 11 pupils meithrin 11 pupils Derbyn 2 teachers
11 March 2010	'Siawns am Sgwrs' - Story Telling walk to Dinefwr Castle with local group of Welsh Learners	12
11 March 2010	'Valley at War' launch evening displays from Carmarthen Museum, National Trust and Welsh Battlefields Society.	
13 March 2010	Walk Leadership Course (2) @ Gelli Aur Church Hall	8
15 March 2010	Michael Harvey – Story Telling – local stories Llandeilo CP School. Half day activity.	30 children from years 5 and 6 1 teacher 3 LSA's
15 March 2010	Michael Harvey – Story Telling – local stories Ysgol Llangadog School. Half day activity.	19 pupils from years 5 and 6
15 March 2010	Michael Harvey and Volunteers – Story Telling, Support and Advice Tywi Centre	5 Volunteers
16 & 23 March 2010	Repairs to Panels & Skirting (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	3
17 March 2010	Theatre in the Landscape Practice with Small World Theatre Company @ Llangadog School – Afternoon and Evening Sessions	Afternoon - 53 children Evening: 17
17 & 24 March 2010	Brickwork & Masonry (Masonry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	2
18 March 2010	Ar y Fwydlen @ Cwrt Henri Hall Ffairfach Primary School v Cwrt Henri Primary School Judges: Llio Silyn; Moira Blakeman	8 in Team
22 & 29 March 2010	Decorative Plasterwork (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	5

25 March 2010	'Old House Surgeries' - with Cliff Blundell from the Lime Company of West Wales - a free day of consultation and information on houses in the Tywi Valley	14
29 March 2010	Michael Harvey @ Llandeilo Library Story telling sessions – all day activity	Session 1 – Community 5 Adults - English 2 Children - English Session 2 - Welsh Ysgol St Teilo School 2 Staff 30 pupils years 3 and 4 Session 3 – English Llandeilo CP School 3 Staff 30 pupils years 3 and 4
29 March 2010	Theatre in the Landscape Practice with Small World Theatre Company @ Llangadog School - Afternoon and Evening Session	Afternoon: 53 Evening: 16
29 March 2010	Traditional Building & Modern Life Talk delivered to Cymdeithas Bethlehem Dyffryn Ceidrych Association by Traditional Sustainable Building Officer	15
30 March 2010	Traditional and Sustainable – Where do they meet? Talk to Coleg Sir Gâr Plumbers by Traditional Sustainable Building Officer	14
13th April – 3rd May	Exploration Tywi! Excavations at Wernfawr Farmstead: School visits and participants	
15 April 2010	Focus Evening – Talk by Tom Lloyd - 'Old Buildings & Old Paintings of the Central Tywi Valley' @ Canolfan Tywi Centre	62

20 April 2010	Michael Harvey @ Cwmifor Primary School all day	
20 April 2010	Oral History Training with Beth Thomas At Tywi Centre, Dinefwr Farm, Llandeilo	
21 April 2010	Small World Theatre Group at Llangadog School in pm with Children	
21 April 2010	Small World Theatre Group at Llangadog School in pm with Community in the evening	Adults 4 Children 14
24 April 2010	Lime Plastering Course (Tŷ Mawr course for homeowners)	6
26 April 2010	Mountain Walking and Map Reading Themed walk led by Ben McAllister (Volunteer)	10 children. 2x TAYO staff, 1x (school?) staff
27 April & 4 May 2010	Timber Decay and Repair (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	3
28 April & 5 May 2010	Traditional Brick Walling Profiles (Masonry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	2
5 May 2010	Small World Theatre Group at Llangadog School in pm with Community in the evening	
6 May 2010	Ar y Fwydlen - Llandeilo Rugby Club v Clwb Gwawr	8 contestants 3 judges 29 in audience
8 May 2010	Sketching Walk with Artist Genevieve Caminade	2 volunteer walk leaders 9 participants
10 & 17 May 2010	Lime Plaster and Run Mouldings (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	7
11 & 18 May 2010	Repair to Trusses, Purlins and Wall Plates (Carpentry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	8
12 & 19 May 2010	Surface Repair of Stone (Masonry course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	5
20 May 2010	Lime Plastering Course	8

26 May 2010	Clom Building Volunteer Day at Tŷ Piccca	1
26 May 2010	Story Telling meeting	6
27 May 2010	Himalayan Balsam Clearing Volunteer Day	11
29 May 2010	Cothi Bridge Agricultural Show	
7 & 14 June 2010	External Rendering with Lime (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	7
10 June 2010	Ar y Fwydlen Llandeilo YFC v Ffairfach School Cooks	8 contestants 3 judges 30 in audience
11 June 2010	Clom Building Volunteer Day at Tŷ Piccca	3
13 June 2010	Explorers walk with Anthony Evans and Suzie and Simon Fraser at Parciau, Cwrt Henri.	3 Volunteers 18 children 9 adults
17 June 2010	Greening your home (Tŷ Mawr course for homeowners)	6
30 June 2010	Ysgol Tregib Special Educational Needs unit – Wildlife education session visit to Dinefwr Estate	13 children 10 staff supervision
3 July 2010	Discover Dinefwr Walk with volunteer Pam Marsh	3 volunteer walk leaders 23 participants
8 & 12 July 2010	External Rendering with Lime (Plastering course delivered by Coleg Sir Gâr)	3
9 July 2010	L&B – Parkland Management & Veteran Tree Management	9
10 July 2010	'Old House Surgeries' - with Cliff Blundell from the Lime Company of West Wales - a free day of consultation and information on houses in the Tywi Valley	8

10 July 2010	Theatre in the Landscape: Llangadog & Community Group - Performance @ Llangadog	6 Adults 13 Children
10 & 11 July	Exploration Tywi! Lan Farm Building Recording	6
14 July 2010	Traditional and Ecological Painting (Tŷ Mawr course)	4
15 July 2010	Path clearance volunteer day @ Garn Goch	2
18 July 2010	Three Towers Fun Run 5km for Adults and Childrens Races	30 Adults 26 Children 45 Spectators
21 July 2010	Michael Harvey working with Menter Bro Dinefwr Llandeilo Rugby Club	
28 July 2010	L&B – Grassland management - CANCELLED	
31 July / 1 Aug	Festival of British Archaeology at Garn Goch organised by DAT but to include work by volunteer story tellers and walk leaders inc Michael Harvey	200+
6 Aug 2010	L&B – Pond management	11
7 Aug 2010	Llangadog Agricultural Show	
17 Aug 2010	Introduction to Thatching	9
18 Aug 2010	Introduction to Thatching	6
20 Aug 2010	L&B – Watercourse management	6
21 Aug 2010	Llandeilo Agricultural Show Lime Plastering Demo, Michael Harvery Stroyteller	
11 & 12 Sept 2010	Food Festival @ Canolfan Tywi Centre	Approx 3000

16 Sept 2010	L&B – Orchard management	17
23 Sept 2010	L&B – Woodland management	6
24 Sept 2010	L&B – Orchard day Apple seminar.	40+
2 Oct 2010	L&B – Ideal homes for Otters	
5 Oct 2010	'Old House Surgeries' - with Cliff Blundell from the Lime Company of West Wales - a free day of consultation and information on houses in the Tywi Valley	11
12, 14, 19 and 21 Oct 2010	Tregib Woods - Volunteers from Pantycelyn and tregib Schools Worked on board walk access improvement project in Tregib Woods	26
13 Oct 2010	Storytelling workshop - Michael Harvey & Volunteers Bethlehem Hall 2pm - 8pm	6
7 Oct 2010	Introduction to Lime Plastering Course (Tŷ Mawr course for homeowners)	7
8 Oct 2010	Lime Plastering Course (Tŷ Mawr course for homeowners and industry)	9
14 Oct 2010	LABC Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Solid Wall Buildings	23
9 Nov 2010	L&B – Hedgerow management and planting	6
10 & 11 Nov 2010	L&B – Hedge laying	6
16 Nov 2010	Seminar on Energy Saving and pre-1919 buildings	59
19th Nov 2010	Festival of the Senses – lantern making and parade from Dinefwr Farm.	12

November 12,15,18,23,25 December 7th and 8th	Art workshops in the partner schools and at the Centre – 7 in all	145
21 and 22nd December 2010	POSTPONED DUE TO SNOW AND SCHOOL CLOSURES Orienteering - School Groups to join Hawk Associates in Gelli Aur Country Park for Orienteering Sessions	