

Dunes to Dunes: Sustainable Management of Bridgend Coastal Landscape

Lead organisation:

Bridgend County Borough Council

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Grant Award: £312,541

Location: Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Bridgend

This project area spans the dune landscapes of the Kenfig Burrows and Merthyr Mawr Warren dune systems in South Wales and are designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR) & a Special area of conservation (SAC). Once a massive dune system these two important ecosystems are now separated by the Porthcawl Coastline, two golf courses and settled farmland.

The Dunes 2 Dunes project aims to form a collaboration of NNR managers, local landowners, golf clubs and farmers to sustainably manage the coastal landscape, improving ecosystems, increasing biodiversity and connectivity to explore the benefits of this for people, local businesses and communities.

Significant habitat restoration and management alongside sustainable grazing have contributed to the resilience of the dunes ecosystem and their long term sustainability. Extensive scrub clearance, large scale drystone wall restoration, hedge-laying and coppicing, have all contributed to some outstanding results. A significant increase in biodiversity has been recorded through species counts. A record year for the fen orchid survey with 3000+ fen orchid, an increase from a few 100 in the baseline studies; showing resilience, better connectivity and dune stability just in this short amount of time.



The project will also work collaboratively with local businesses such as golf clubs supporting them with their ongoing sustainable performance with the ambition to achieve the GEO Certified Eco label

The project have implemented education work with local schools and work placements with students studying targeted countryside management at Kenfig National Nature Reserve and the adjoining coastal areas. As part of their work experience placements, they take a break from their studies in the Biology Department of Swansea University to learn about the practical ways Bridgend County Borough Council manages its National Nature Reserves and enhancing the ecology of the coastal zone.

The project also aims to maximise the health and well-being opportunities of the area through improving green infrastructure. Accessible well maintained walking routes, focusing on promoting and developing the coastal path and encouraging visitors to the quality green spaces. Educating the public through signage on the impact they can have on this environment and how they can help keep this incredible place safe.



Habitat Restoration: Winter habitat management at Kenfig NNR, with the creation of a significant new dune scrapes and extensive scrub clearance

Volunteer Programmes: 87 people attending volunteer training courses, with 191 people cumulatively having participated so far

Training & Job Creation: 135 training days held, including mini digger use to invertebrate ID & monitoring

Building collaborations & Partnerships: 20 different organisations have engaged with over 60 people from local landowners & farmers to eNGO's through partnership events

Building collaborations & partnerships: Through the support of the project the two golf clubs on this landscape have achieved the prestigious GEO Certification

Woodland Management & Planting: Improving the boundaries on Sker farm, planting a 250m stretch of over a 1000 trees with a 15 year commitment to grow them into a traditional hedgerow

Training & Job Creation: Hosted 12 work experience university students, providing practical countryside management training undertaking scrub clearance, dry-stone walling, hedge-laying and coppicing

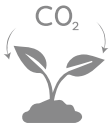
Rural Skills and Heritage: Over 60m of traditional dry stone walling completed by local contractors contributing to the local economy

Educational Programmes: Engagement with local schools, with educational material produced and visits to see the coastal landscape and the local farms

Increased Access to Outdoor Spaces: Focus on promoting and developing the coastal path with upgraded educational signage, bins and infrastructure

Sustainable Grazing: Summer grazing with cattle and managed sheep grazing in the winter

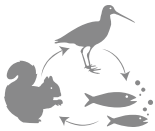
Knowledge Transfer & Innovation (KT&I): Online material reaching over 14k people with hundreds of project video views and shares



Carbon Sequestration – supported by tree and hedgerow planting.



Climate Change Adaptation – supported by partnership events and attainment of GEO certification.



Enhanced Biodiversity – supported by habitat management at Kenfig NNR, with the creation of a significant new dune scrapes and extensive scub clearance, hedgerow planting and sustainable grazing



Ecosystem Resilience – supported by habitat management at Kenfig NNR, with the creation of a significant new dune scrapes and extensive scub clearance, hedgerow planting and sustainable grazing



Health & Wellbeing - supported by coastal path development.



Community Cohesion – supported by training courses, partnership events, attainment of GEO certification, hosting students for work experience, hiring local contractors for dry stone walling, engaging with schools, coastal path development and sharing online material.



Rural Skills & Heritage – supported by training courses, hosting students for work experience and hiring local contractors for dry stone walling.



Development of Skills Capacity & Expertise – supported by training courses, partnership events, hosting students for work experience, engaging with schools, coastal path development and sharing online material.

Get Involved – If you would like to learn more or get involved in the work being done by Dunes to Dunes you can find more information at: