



Regenerate NPT: Project Closure Report

Project Organisation: Friends of Margam Park

Project Name: Ffynnon Capel Mair and the Ancient Well
(I Dig Margam)

Project Start Date: 2 Aug 2021 Project End Date: 31 January 2022

Date of Report: 23rd February 2022

Attached Documents List: Feasibility Study undertaken by P Cope

There is a mandatory requirement to complete this document at Project Closure. The purpose of the report is to provide a project level document evidencing how well the project has performed against the original Business Plan delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during the lifetime of the project, and how it has contributed to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership's Local Development Strategy. Project performance against the planned/approved costs, delivery timescales and Key Performance indicators will also be detailed. **Please try and keep within the maximum word count.**

1. Background: (briefly detail the background to the Project – 250 max)	
<p>The historical ruin of Ffynnon Capel Mair, a small 14th century church, built by the monks of Margam Abbey, on the Graig Fawr hillside, behind Margam Park, is an area of great historical importance but yet little known to locals and not visited by the majority of tourists that come to the park. The future of this little church and a recently discovered ancient Well on the same site, seemed to be in danger of being destroyed by vandals precisely because it is so rarely visited. The Friends of Margam Park were constantly having to clear away rubbish and charred wood, the debris from fires – this was not only putting these historical structures at risk but also the surrounding forest and wildlife.</p> <p>The Friends of Margam Park commissioned a study to identify how the site could be developed by exploring conservation through an educationally centred proposal around its heritage and cultural importance. If the development of an innovative 'grass roots' community-led bilingual, archaeological and educational project, framed around The Well and Ffynnon Capel Mair, were to be achieved, then the site would be visible and busy, the outcome of which would be a deterrent for vandals as well increased general knowledge around the historical importance of the site.</p>	
2. Project Outcomes as per application	Was this achieved? What supporting evidence is there of achievement? If not achieved, why not?
Feasibility Study in accordance with WG Guidelines (as stated on page 2 of the application form)	Yes, these were achieved and evidenced
Run 4 workshops	Yes, these were achieved and evidenced

3. Strategic Achievements: (outline what the project has achieved in terms of alignment with LEADER Themes and Priorities and any contribution to national strategies - 300 max)

Theme: 1 - Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

Priority: Vibrant - Building on the unique physical, social and cultural assets of NPT, enhancing the image of NPT as a good place to live and do business with vibrant, sustainable communities and high quality of life.

Our project has definitely added to the scene of adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources. The project was so unique that it pulled together a multitude of agencies to highlight the importance of a uniquely national site. The feasibility study has required input from agencies important to our national heritage such as CADW and their lead archaeologist, Dr John Berry, who has been profoundly supportive of this project, along with management of Margam Park, local councillors and the director of education for NPTCBC.

It has long been highlighted within NPTCBC that we need to bring significantly more heritage to the tours within Margam Park. The tours that we have developed around this unique site have allowed us to contribute to this and there are more tours planned that include:

- Cross denomination religious and pagan events
- School training events
- Community events
- Tours involving other partners such as the Cistercian Walk Organisation.

4. With regards to your comments at application stage, how have you managed this project in terms of sustainability? (What plans have been put in place to maintain the project once it is completed? 400 words max)

The study has shown that there are many roads that we can continue down to sustain a variety of projects here. With regards to the sustainability of both the well and the church, our efforts to include the local community through education, have been well rewarded. The workshops were so successful that we are now in discussions with the Director of Education, Mr Andrew Thomas, who has stated he wants this workshop and the information therein to be delivered via the NPT school's curriculum. As a further project, he will be commissioning the friends of Margam to provide and run train the teacher courses on the pre-history and development of Capel Mair and the Holy Well.

The information collated/discovered during this study has allowed us to amalgamate all previously held and newly discovered pieces of research that have led us to some astounding conclusions and widened the whole scope of the next phase of our planned project. There is now unequivocal proof of an Iron Age/Stone Age encampment on the site of Capel Mair and the Holy well. When we showed CADW this research and feasibility study they were immediately prompted into action as the site is obviously of tremendous importance and needs to be protected. However, we did not want to let protection alone be our goal as we have already stated that we wanted to educate and provide a long term future for this project in a sustainable manner. To that end we have now produced an amazing tour that shows all of the 8 wells within the grounds of Margam Park with 1 newly discovered Holy well. We anticipate this tour will be very successful and we are now in discussions with the organisation that delivers Cistercian walks to deliver these in partnership with them. The fact that our glorious heritage is there for us all to discover has been the message throughout.



Coed Hirwaun Primary

Enjoying the young archaeologists newspapers, that will be provided to every child in NPT



5. Project Beneficiaries:

The project beneficiaries are as follows:

- Both local and national/International visitors to Margam Park
- The older population can also benefit to these workshops as we are now carrying the workshop on an outreach basis to assisted living accommodation and homes for the elderly in NPT.
- Local education authority and children within schools
- Volunteer members of the Friends of Margam Park
- CADW as FoMP are monitoring and maintaining the site

6. Cross Cutting Themes: If relevant, briefly describe how your project contributed to the following themes:

Equal Opportunities:

We ensure that should a person not be able to carry out a tour or walk, that they are offered a workshop to attend. In fact we've had quite a few people with disabilities and older participants who although could not get to the hilly site, thoroughly enjoyed the workshops provided. We ensure that everyone can access our service regardless of sex, age, race, religion or disability. Many of our members have disabilities and indeed the lead trustee responsible for this program is a disability inclusion consultant.

Also, history and archaeology has been very much a male activity. The participant numbers of our workshops now show that women outnumber men.

Sustainable Development including Economic, Environmental and Social

The study showed that there are a number of options available for the site. However these are dependent on the landowners, Margam Park/NPT CBC and the protectors i.e CADW. Having

held meetings between all groups we now identify the need to protect and develop the site further. In the short-term we will be providing holy well Tours and talks. These provide us with substantial donations, which allows us to purchase equipment to maintain the site.

The tours provided will also give value add to Margam Park itself, as they can add these tours to their service offerings and advertise accordingly. We have an excellent working relationship with the management of Margam Park who are delighted with the outcome of the study and the opportunities therein.

We aim to link up with Harriet Eaton of NPT who has began a young archaeologists club. Given the amazing history in Margam Park, it is now our intention to work together to bring this club to the park. An end goal would be to open a Welsh Centre of Archaeological Study (the only one).

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion

Again, we refer to the input from the local schools and the fact that these educational courses and workshops, combined with site visits are delivered to children within the locality. Some of these children may not have the ability to visit the park and so having this course delivered as part of their school life means that our history is open to all.

7. Conclusion Summary: Please provide a summary on the project's performance, identifying any key issues that need to be addressed:

a) Summary

We consider this project to be a resounding success. We began looking to attain the feasibility of opening the well and protecting Capel Mair, which we have done but due to the diligent discovery work of Phil Cope and ourselves, we now understand there is a far greater role to be played here and possibly a site of national importance.

Because of this our next phase of development will be to offer these tours and workshops to Margam Park visitors, the local community and the local education authority, with the teach the teacher courses/ workshops.

Next will be to link up with NPTCBC and Archaeology Groups such as GAAT and CADW to begin talks on the way forward whilst linking in with Welsh Government Heritage aims and directives.

b) Key Issues

For us the key issues may be different to other groups but these are the key issues that we took away from the project:

Support-without the support of LAG, we are absolutely sure that we would not have been able to put things around with such tight deadlines. Both Suzette Phillips and Andrew Davies, the constantly present albeit in the virtual world, to allow us to keep to our project milestones and achieve and overachieve virtually all of our targets. Our group is mainly made up of retirees and many members have not had experience of local government processes and to be blunt, lengthy forms and reports. The high level of support from the lady meant that these procedural documents were completed on time (mostly).

Another key issue for a volunteer group in particular is that of energy. We had no idea when you began this project that some other volunteer groups were somewhat territorial in their

approach and refused to be a part of the study. One group put as many obstacles in the way as was possible. So it took a lot of energy to help these people understand just what we wanted to achieve through this study. We achieved that and more. So much so that we have had messages of support from Welsh government agencies. But yet again this is where support of LAG played a tremendous part.

c) What went well?

The workshops and the impact from the local community and local schools was fantastic. There was a little coordination to achieve government to achieve the results were well worth it. We now have volunteers who are solely responsible for monitoring the area around the site and these are also happy to educate visitors, dog walkers and when in situ.

d) What didn't go well?

As we have previously mentioned, one local volunteer history group became very territorial and refused to even give us an opinion as to why they were anxious or what exactly their objections were. We soon discovered that in the world of history and archaeology, there are very strong opinions and beliefs that have held for many, many years can be hard to change. Going into this with rose tinted glasses is certainly not advised. Had we anticipated these issues, it would have made our journey far easier. However the results of been so successful, it was well worth it!

e) What could have been done differently?

We could/should have done the groundwork and research on the priorities of other groups that relate to Capel Mair and the Holy Well. Had we understood common attitudes to history and archaeology amongst enthusiasts, we could have approached the base gathering of information, differently.

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY LEAD BODY:

Project Performance – Financial & Indicator Achievements: (detailed performance against approved timescales and budget expectation, including reasons for all variances)

a) Performance indicator achievement against targets approved: Final position:

PI Reference	Approved Target	Total Achieved	Justification for underachievement	How has achievement been evidenced
LD.CL.001	Number of Feasibility Studies			
	1	1		Feasibility Study attached
LD.CL.006	Number of Information dissemination actions/promotional and/or marketing activities to raise awareness of the LDS			
	10	10		Social media, posters and photographs
LD.CL.007	Number of stakeholders engaged			
	0	2		Engagement with two schools - emails and attendance sheets
LD.C.L008	Number of Participants supported			
	0	36		Engagement with two schools- emails and attendance sheets
NPT01	Number of Communities Engaged			
	1	1		Report and attendance sheets
NPT02	Number of Groups Engaged			

	4	4		Meeting minutes highlighting groups engaged
NPT03	Number of young people participating in the project			
	20	32		Engagement with two schools- emails and attendance sheets
NPT04	Number of women participating in the project			
	20	17		Engagement with two schools- emails and attendance sheets
NPT05	Number of Welsh speakers participating in the project			
	5	11		Attendance sheets (Workshops)
NPT06	Number of older people participating in the project			
	20	32		Attendance sheets (Workshops)
NPT08	Number of projects aimed at environmental enhancement/sustainability			
	1	1		This project will encourage the local community to take an active approach in improving their local environment. The Capel Mair site itself is a haven for wildlife, nature and biodiversity with breath-taking views of Swansea Bay and the Margam Estate below, and this is something that can also be highlighted and emphasised upon to draw attention to the beauty of this particular site.
b) Pilot Activities/Projects: Outlining all of the stages and activities, including the timelines. To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
c) Feasibility Studies: To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project <input type="checkbox"/>				

d) Project Closure Financial Position against original approved: (following final claim)				
Timescales	Original Approved		Adjusted Approved	Final Closure Date
	From	To	31.1.22	
	2.6.21	17.12.21		
e) Summary of Financial Performance				
		Original Approved	Adjusted Approved	Final Claim
Total Project Costs		£7,060	£15,810	£15,810
RDP Funding		£5,648	£12,648	£12,648
Levered Funding		£1,412	£3,162	£3,162
Intervention Rates	% RDP	80%	80%	80%
	% Match	20%	20%	20%
		Cost Heading	Justification for under/overspend	
Under/overspend			Additional funding agreed in Dec 21 to continue the work resulting from the Feasibility Study with the Consultant undertaking 4 workshops, promotional work and promotional material around 'I Dig Margam' including: Children's bags, files, folders, pens etc. for dissemination into local participating schools.	

9. Handover contact details: For post project monitoring and evaluation activities, Welsh Government will require contact details of staff who may be able to provide assistance.

Name: Andrea Kennedy Designation: Trustee
Email: andreak@friendsofmargampark.co.uk Telephone: 07846 320198
Website address: <http://www.friendsofmargampark.co.uk/>
Facebook page: Friendsofmargampark

Document Retention Procedures: Documents (which includes all evidence relating to your project) must be retained in a suitable format for a period of 10 years following the end of the current LEADER programme – this means at least until 2031.

Signed:  Date: 24/03/22
(Project Lead)

Signed:  Date: 24/03/22
(RDP Manager – Lead Body)

Post Project Activities by the Local Partnerships and Local Action Group:

Define what activities need to be undertaken by the Lead Body after the project has been closed include any post project follow up actions which may need to be undertaken following project closure:

Completed PCR to be forwarded to LAG & WRN plus FEASIBILITY STUDY