

The background of the entire page is a wide-angle, fisheye aerial photograph of the National Botanic Garden of Wales. The central focus is a large, oval-shaped glass conservatory with a grid-like structure. Surrounding it are various garden features, including circular paths, manicured lawns, and several buildings. The surrounding landscape is lush green with rolling hills and a river visible on the right side.

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Thank you

for helping us to deliver on our commitment to *conservation, education and inspiration*. Despite our young age, we have achieved an incredible amount to become one of Wales' treasures and a national asset.

Our partners have provided generous contributions which have made it possible for us to expand our research and conservation work, develop our education programme,

and restore our wider landscape with improved access to woodlands and lakes. Improvements to our catering and retail areas and an increase in visitor numbers have all contributed to improved performances.

This report celebrates our achievements and outlines our ambitions to continue transforming the world for future generations.



We welcome over
160,000 visitors annually

Introduction



On behalf of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, I am proud to present this impact report. Despite our young age as a botanic garden, we have achieved an incredible amount. We have become one of Wales' real treasures and a national asset. This report will celebrate how we are delivering against our commitment to conservation, education and inspiration. It will also set out our future ambitions in how we can continue changing the world for future generations, vital work that we hope you will help us in achieving.

I'd also like to recognise some of our key partners, some of whom have provided generous contributions which have made it possible for us to expand our research and conservation work, develop our education programme, and restore our wider landscape with improved access to the woodlands and lakes. This has culminated in a notable increase in visitor numbers and dwell time at the Garden of Wales, which combined with a revamp of the Caffi Botanica, the shop and plant sales areas, delivered improved catering and retail performance as well as direct revenue at the gatehouse.

It is also important to recognise the impact that the Covid pandemic has had on our charity, and indeed the wider community. The Garden of Wales emerges from the pandemic with increased visitor numbers, a multi award winning site including a restored historic landscape and importantly an enhanced reputation as an international centre for horticulture, science, conservation and sustainability. It prompted a significant change in approach to our public engagement and interaction during 2020 and 2021, with much of it moving online. I'm pleased to say that we've emerged from this a stronger and more agile organisation. Moving forward, far greater emphasis will be placed on the continuation of this blended approach committed towards increasing and extending our work and appeal to all sectors of society.

It is humbling to look back on our recent achievements, but I'm also filled with excitement to see what we will deliver next. We live in an age when it is all too easy to lose touch with nature and its wonders. At the Garden of Wales, we can and do make a difference by inspiring generations to embrace nature, develop an understanding for the plant kingdom and stimulate a passion for sustainability and conservation. Here's to the next chapter of that story...

JD Gary Davies Chair of Trustees



Making an impact

The National Botanic Garden of Wales is respected around the world and loved by those who visit. Our goals and achievements are all inspired by our charitable mission of research and conservation of biodiversity, sustainability, lifelong learning - and the enjoyment of the visitor!

100
staff



16,000
members

45%
growth in visitor
numbers since 2016

250

volunteers provide
22,000 hours
of voluntary input
per year



Key Achievements

Growing The Future

The National Botanic Garden of Wales was awarded funding through the Rural Development Programme for Wales to deliver the five-year **Growing the Future** project (2017-2022). The Project's aim was to promote and develop Welsh horticulture through provision of training and knowledge transfer for the benefit of people, wildlife and the environment.



199,273
participants supported

62,131
actions/operations supported

17,553
training days given

61,908
unique participants in training

7
jobs created

37
enterprises assisted

14
networks established

£££

The impact of Growing the Future on pollinators, biodiversity and conservation is valued at **£18,964,055**

For every £1 spent on Growing the Future, £9.02 worth of social value is created



LIVING COLLECTIONS AND CONSERVATION



Number of species in collection

3157

Increase in families represented since 2017 (5yrs)

23%

Number of accessions of known wild provenance

18%

Number of genera represented

1363

Increase in living collections since 2017 (5yrs)

148%

Species accessions with IUCN category of vulnerable or above

12%

Accessions of wild origin collected in Wales

280



We are part of the global family of botanic gardens - playing for Wales on a world stage



We are the **first** botanic garden within the UK to be recognised by **Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)** with all three levels of their accreditation scheme: **BGCI Botanic Garden, Conservation Practitioner and Advanced Conservation Practitioner.**



AWARDS

The newly-restored Regency parkland has been awarded Institute of Chartered Engineering (ICE) People's Choice Awards



Winner

Alun Griffiths Award for Community Engagement

Visitors' Favourite Award

Carmarthenshire Tourism

Favourite Visitor Garden in Wales

Voted by readers of *Garden News* magazine

No.1 Garden in Wales

Voted by readers of *Gardeners' World* magazine

Science



CASE STUDY: SAVING POLLINATORS

Our **Saving Pollinators** research programme supports the conservation of pollinating insects within Wales and beyond. Despite their importance, pollinators are facing decline and ill health due to factors such as habitat loss and climate change. Pollinating insects require access to suitable plants for foraging, and by finding out the plants that are most important we can help to ensure that these plants are available in the pollinators' environment.

IMPACTS



We use DNA barcoding of pollen, retrieved from insects or extracted from honey, to track which plants pollinators use. We use our findings to provide advice and training on the conservation of pollinating insects.



Our research has helped to discover which plants are important for honeybees and wild pollinators in gardens, amenity areas and farmland.



Saving Pollinators plants are for sale at our revamped Pot Blodyn shop, and a range of nurseries.

As members of the Welsh Government's **Action Plan for Pollinators**, we feed our experience and research into conservation practise and policy.

Since 2017, **nine** open access scientific papers published on pollinator and plant interactions, accessed 17,229 times with 139 citations.



Our paper **Shifts in Honeybee Foraging**, published in the journal *Communications Biology*, reveals historical changes in floral resources.

In an **Altmetric assessment** of its impact and reach, it has been placed in the top 5% of all papers rated and has attracted substantial media interest globally.

CASE STUDY: BIOPHILIC WALES

The aims of the **Biophilic Wales** project are to increase the well-being of people, biodiversity and the environment throughout Wales.

The project has included **3** key areas of work:

Inspiring Spaces

Working in partnership with Swansea Bay University Health Board to bring native wildlife onto NHS sites to improve well-being.

Grasslands for Life

Investigating the hidden diversity of our most beautiful grassland landscapes.

Plants for People

The celebration of Wales' natural heritage by protecting some of our most endangered plants.

IMPACTS

64

Grassland species seed banked for future conservation



12,258

hours of volunteer contribution

88,297

meaningful interactions with people on nature

"I had yet to understand the need for wildflowers and restful areas in and around the Health Board sites. But, as the pandemic spread like wildfire and we all saw pictures of stressed out medical staff, it slowly dawned on me exactly why such a project was absolutely necessary. If there are spaces that can fairly easily be enhanced, that exist but are under-utilised at the moment, that can provide a quiet oasis away from the stress, then that has just got to be a better use of that space."

Keith Morris, Biophilic Wales volunteer



Ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

Horticulture and Education



As a centre of excellence in conservation and research, the National Botanic Garden of Wales provides funded apprenticeships, training opportunities and extensive school programmes.



Our apprentice programme is flourishing, with trainees in *Heritage, Tourism and Horticulture* employed at the Garden. We provide an excellent training platform for in-demand skills.



During the pandemic our horticulture apprentices continued their training programme and made an important contribution to maintaining the plant collections at the Garden of Wales. The specialist horticulture teams continued to care for the internationally important plant collections.

27,000 educational contacts delivered every year



Historic Landscape

The five-year long Regency Restoration Project has restored features of the Regency period landscape created for William Paxton in what is now Waun Las National Nature Reserve.

The parklands were an early example of picturesque ideals being utilised in landscape design, characterised by the contrasts that nature can show – at one moment, beautiful tranquility, and at the next the drama of tumbling water over cascades, a weir, and waterfall.

A key element of the project has been the restoration of our paths. They provide the network that links the features, and draw visitors into the landscape. A viewing platform hidden for over a century gives you an overview of the vast scale of Llyn Mawr, whilst taking in the two steel bridges and the vast dam.



6 bridges link up and provide a series of walking circuits which snake through the landscape

Thomas Hornor painted a series of viewpoints of Paxton's estate in 1815. The intricate details in these paintings have provided designers and engineers with a wealth of information on which to base plans for the restoration.

3,000 trees planted



80,000m³ of water contained in the restored lakes

568 acres of parkland to explore

5km of historic paths re-instated for visitors to enjoy



A botanic garden for the future



Established as a Millennium project, the National Botanic Garden of Wales is young compared to many botanic garden around the world, and requires innovation and dynamic approaches to help ensure the organisation's sustainability and to maximise the opportunity to deliver world leading conservation, research and education programmes.

Over the next year, we will begin the exciting prospect of implementing our new 10-year strategic plan, which provides focused objectives within a dynamic, forward-looking and inspirational organisation.

The Botanic Garden plays a significant role in the local economy, supporting more than 165 Welsh jobs and adding more than £3.7 million GVA to the Welsh economy.

Our plans will seek to enhance our profile, status and facilities to deliver our aspirations and further enhance our reputation and importance as an economic anchor for Wales.

With the after effects of the Covid pandemic and economic uncertainty due to the cost-of-living crisis, the Garden will require flexibility and innovative approaches to attracting visitors.



Large events and activities are returning, and our marketing proposition will continue to encourage visitors to make the most of our extensive outdoor areas, including our wider estate to enjoy the restored historic landscape, Arboretum, wildflower meadows and National Nature Reserve.

New interpretation will be installed in order to better engage visitors with our charitable mission of biodiversity, conservation, research and heritage activities.

Education, engagement and training activities will be delivered both in-person and online, and new partnerships will continue to bring new groups to the Garden.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

- Share your experience and bring your family and friends to visit
- Join our mission and become a volunteer
- Use our newly refurbished meeting rooms and event spaces
- Support our work through becoming a Member, giving yourself free entry year-round
- Leave a gift to us in your Will, or sponsor a bench or tree in our grounds
- Donate towards some of our key projects, including the new Arboretum, National Nature Reserve and horticulture apprentices



We urgently need your help to ensure that we can deliver our mission for plants, people and planet