



Environmental Policies

Environmental Policy (guidelines for protecting the environment)

We aim for all our participants and staff to engender a high level of respect for the natural world and encourage all to be involved in decisions about their environment and safety.

We aim to ensure that, where possible, Coed Cariad purchases products that have been assessed for having a lower impact on the environment. By operating in a way that minimises waste, optimises recycling and promotes the reuse of materials we hope to demonstrate and encourage a wider respect for the environment, as well as an understanding that all produce and waste is linked to the health of our planet as a whole.

On site activities such as fires will follow practices that minimise impact on wildlife through being mindful of what is burnt and how any residues are disposed of. Before leaving a site we will ensure that litter is collected and disposed of suitably.

Minimising Impacts

Mitigation Collecting Wood Dead wood is important to any woodland ecology as it has a multitude of uses, from homes for mini beasts to beds for fungi, so a lack of it is bad for any woodland habitat. Limit the frequency of fires and evaluate the amount of dry, dead wood before having a fire. Collect only the minimum amount required for any given fire. Reserve specific areas for dead wood conservation.

Fires Changes in soil chemistry can lead to increases in PH levels, carbon, phosphorous, etc. which can be harmful to some plants, whilst other essential nutrients may be depleted. Fire can travel underground to roots even after appearing to be extinguished. Designate fixed locations for fires on parts of the site that aren't particularly ecologically interesting or unique. If possible, dispose of ash into patches of nettles. Ensure that all fires are extinguished fully before leaving a site. Where needed, use a fire wok to contain fire.

Cooking Food waste may attract animals to the site or increase numbers of certain species, potentially leading to adverse changes in biodiversity. Inform participants of these impacts and provide a container (to be taken away) or an ecologically sound place for food disposal.

Tree Climbing, Shelter Building & Swings Damage to trees. Restrict these activities to suitable trees that will tolerate them.

Collecting Natural Materials Damage to plants - some plants are Inform groups as to which types of Materials far more sensitive to losing their leaves or flowers than

others and different seasons affect this too. plants are best to pick, if any. Ensure leaves or flowers are taken from fallen parts where possible. Limit the frequency of this type of activity. Leave plants unpicked whenever picking is not necessary.

Toilet Use Wet wipes contain plastic. Human waste entering waterways Burying faeces and tissues ensures they biodegrade. Either buy biodegradable ones, refrain from using them, or dispose of them in a bag to be taken away. Designated toileting area will be at least 20 metres from a waterway.

For additional documentation please see Appendices.

- 🍃 Ecological Impact Assessment
- 🍃 Site Management Plan
- 🍃 Woodland Species Survey Form (including trees, shrubs, plants, bryophytes, birds and animals).