

# Thousands of new recruits give nature a helping hand

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Gwarchodfa Natur Gilfach

Thanks to National Lottery players, two projects will see more than 3,000 volunteers tasked with supporting the natural heritage of Wales.

The projects will share close to £1million and will improve our hedgerows, collect valuable habitat information and encourage young people to take an interest in nature. Between them they will span the length and breadth of the country – from Anglesey to Monmouthshire, Flint to Pembrokeshire.

## **Local communities get down, dirty – and digital!**

Traditional hedgerows are recognised as vital habitats for wildlife but their decline in recent years has threatened the existence of many of our well known native species, such as dormice, red squirrels and bats, who use the hedges for foraging and navigating.

The Long Forest project will see an innovative app developed, enabling people to survey and record hedgerows near them, while 100,000 trees will be planted and around 120,000 metres of hedgerow improved - good news indeed for our furry and feathered friends.

## Exploring opportunities in Powys with global potential

Working with local people and community groups like Mid Powys Mind, the Exploring Gilfach project will improve walking trails and facilities at the 410-acre reserve, providing a better experience to visitors who can learn more about the history of the site as well as its environmental significance.

Already designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Gilfach is home to some species not found anywhere else in the UK, as well as otters, leaping salmon and a variety of summer migrant birds. As part of the project, volunteers and budding young naturalists will gain professional-level skills in identifying different species – and with around 1,300 species on site, they've plenty to choose from!

## Get involved with natural heritage

To find out how we can help you look after your environment and apply for grants from £3,000, please [contact the Wales development team](#).



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[£1m HLF support to protect Welsh environments](#)