

Tell us what you have delivered, what is working best and, or to explain anything that has gone wrong and why, so we can provide help to mitigate risks or adapt the project. Base this on the Programme of Work you submitted with your application form and schedule 2 of the award letter.

Project name & reference number

Carmarthenshire PSB - Commission green infrastructure plans and **creating new woodlands/orchard sites** SAF/G/003-08

Reporting period (e.g. claim 1; Final project report)

Final Project report

For NRW internal use only

<i>Date report received</i>	
-----------------------------	--

Outputs. Use the table below to detail your project outputs for this reporting period. There is as agreed in Schedule 2.

Outputs in this Reporting Period	Evidence	Explain any variation from your expected outputs
<p>1. Purchase of Tree Stock for use across Town and Community Council Partners</p>	<p>Please see invoices and procurement evidence for Dingles Nursery and Coeden Fach.</p> <p>Please see attached images.</p>	<p>It was anticipated that we would be able to use a single supplier for all tree stock required. However, due to EU and Covid-19 impacts on supply it was required to go with 2 suppliers to meet the required quantity and species variety needed.</p>
<p>2. Planting of tree stock at sites across the Town and Community Council Partner areas.</p> <p>New or improved planting sites – 8 new sites created</p>	<p>Please see attached “Tree Stock Distribution Sheet” and images.</p>	<p>We have, despite Covid restrictions, been able to establish more sites than planned. This has been achieved by planting smaller sites with smaller groups of volunteers and yet has still allowed the establishment of some of the larger scheduled sites which will continue to be developed in coming months.</p> <p>Due to delays in supply (as a result of supply chain issues for the suppliers) the window for planting was less than planned for. We also encountered changes to the legislation around Covid-19 between submission and delivery of the project. Both of these factors reduced the total number of volunteer days we were able to</p>

		deliver but do not impact on the number of trees or number of sites improved as a result of the grant support.
3. Habitat Improvement – Rotavator	Please see attached image and serial number.	
4. Habitat Improvement – Nest Box production and workshop hire.	Please see attached booking form for the Hearth Workshop hire (Cwmaman Town Council) and invoice.	Variation to the Covid-19 guidance impacted this aspect as the window between grant receipt and completion date fell within a particularly strict and restrictive period. However, all materials were received and facilities hire secured and we will ensure the best possible community impact of this aspect through delivery under less restrictive conditions.

Outcomes. Tell us about how your project is delivering on the longer-term change? You should reflect on the outcomes you detailed in your programme of work.

Ecology Impact – this project has allowed us to establish 8 new woodland and tree planted areas across the 6 town and community council areas. The species used are all native species which will help to provide support to other species, provide community food crops and working wood for use within the communities. The planting of the trees has, although under challenging circumstances, allowed engagement with local residents and the sharing of local ecology information.

Social Impact –

- Social Engagement – the opportunity to engage with local residents following a long period when this has been impossible provided significant benefits to both them and us as councils seeking to delivery meaningful local services.
- Improved Sense of Place – local residents involved in the planting, many of whom hadn't been involved in similar activities before, stated that they felt greater ownership, connectedness and sense of place following the activities
- Improved Connectedness – residents were able to establish new connections with each other and council officers were able to begin the development of meaningful relationships with individuals and fledgling community groups.
- Volunteer Groups involved in future management of the sites – 4 community groups have been established or enhanced as a result of the project activities. This has been particularly important as it has been the first social activity for many involved and met both social and emotional needs at this challenging time. These groups are now working with the Town and Community Councils in the long-term management and ongoing enhancement of the new and existing green spaces.

Changes. Tell us about any issues which have arisen requiring adaptation and, or discussion.

The impact of Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions affected the window of delivery and planting and how the trees were planted as the safety of the volunteers and town and community council staff had to be ensured. However, the overall outputs of the project were not affected.

Tell us the story. What you wanted to happen and what you have achieved. What do you think worked well and why? Include any evidence used in reaching a conclusion and any recommendations. We expect more detail at the end of the project including which sites you have worked on. We would like to see a case study, reflecting the work you have done in each of the Area Statement areas across Wales. We welcome stories, from beneficiaries of the project, of their experience.

Feel free to add additional space below or attach your own report to the email back to us.

Town and Community Council Story:

This project was a very welcome opportunity for the town and community council's who are part of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act group in Carmarthenshire to work together in a very tangible and meaningful way. Up to this point the majority of work and collaboration has been procedural or information sharing focused.

Despite the impact of enhanced Covid-19 safety legislation we were able to directly engage with community members through planting sessions, online engagement and discussion and the development of new community groups focused on environmental issues and work. We are pleased with the amount of volunteering the project has provided, with 72 unskilled and 10 skilled volunteers giving 520.5 hours to the planting element of the work. We anticipate around 636 hours of volunteer time will be given in the production of nest boxes and their installation across the town and community council areas.

Moreover, this grant has allowed us to work closely with Carmarthenshire County Council and receive support and guidance throughout the entire process. This has both supported the delivery of the tree planting sessions, species selection etc. and in showing the delivery potential of the town and community sector at a very local level.

The tree planting sessions have provided a welcome and enjoyable activity for local residents in all communities involved. One resident who was able to attend with her 18month old child was delighted to be able to see her child interacting with other children for the first time as a result of lockdown. We have also been able to involve pupils with additional learning needs, socially isolated individuals and a broad cross-section of local residents in this activity. This has allowed direct discussion between our staff and our residents for the first time in nearly a year. This opportunity is far greater than the planting of trees and has allowed us to identify issues, support ongoing engagement and make a very real difference to individuals within our areas. Following one session a resident divulged that they were struggling significantly with their mental health after losing their job and facing significant hardship. Attendance at the session allowed them to receive the support and signposting they needed and they are now actively involved with a woodlands group in the community.

We would like to thank both NRW and Carmarthenshire for making this opportunity as rewarding as it has been. Both for our local environments and our residents.

Robert Venus, Community Development Officer (Cwmaman Town Council)

on behalf of:

- Llannon Community Council,
- Llanedi Community Council,
- Pembrey and Burry Port Community Council,
- Llanelli Town Council,
- Llanelly Rural Community Council.

Tell us what you have delivered, what is working best and, or to explain anything that has gone wrong and why, so we can provide help to mitigate risks or adapt the project. Base this on the Programme of Work you submitted with your application form and schedule 2 of the award letter.

Project name & reference number

Carmarthenshire PSB - **Commission green infrastructure plans** and creating new woodlands/orchard sites SAF/G/003-08

Reporting period (e.g. claim 1; Final project report)

Final project report

For NRW internal use only

<i>Date report received</i>	
-----------------------------	--

Outputs. Use the table below to detail your project outputs for this reporting period. There is as agreed in Schedule 2.

Outputs in this Reporting Period	Evidence	Explain any variation from your expected outputs
1. Summary of stakeholder mapping and supporting data base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder database (Excel) 	
2. Summary of key findings from the site visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings from NCE site visit • Key findings from Jackson’s Lane site visit • Desktop Landscape Study 	
3. Constraints & Opportunities Plan for each site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Constraints and Opportunities mapping 	

Outcomes. Tell us about how your project is delivering on the longer-term change? You should reflect on the outcomes you detailed in your programme of work.

This project has delivered Phase 1 of the Green Infrastructure mapping project.

The aims of Phase 1 were to:

1. Identify key stakeholders from across a range of disciplines and interests, both with the Council and externally.
2. Carry out site visits to both sites to better understand opportunities and constraints for green infrastructure.
3. Identify draft constraints and opportunities for each site as the basis for further discussion with identified stakeholders.

Output 1 has resulted in a GI stakeholder database which has identified key persons over a range of different disciplines, both within the Council and externally. Initial contact has been had with a number of these stakeholders, to gather their knowledge and expertise of the two projects sites and the potential for GI interventions. This dialogue will continue as this project progresses into Phase 2. Stakeholders in the identified database will also inform the attendees of a proposed workshop that will be held under Phase 2 of this project, to discuss the draft constraints and opportunities identified for both sites.

In the longer term, having a database of important stakeholders for GI projects in Carmarthenshire and opening a dialogue with them will be invaluable for future projects, and there is potential for this to be shared with other PSB partners. We hope that as a result of the learning and knowledge gathering from this project, we can establish best practice for the planning of GI projects in the public sector.

Outputs 2 and 3: The site visits and resulting constraints and opportunities mapping has given us a clear basis on which discussions can be had with the identified stakeholders and allows us to make informed plans and decisions for the sustainable redevelopment of the two sites included in this project. In the longer term the knowledge and learning from these outputs can then be applied in future GI projects. The outputs of this project will also be shared with other PSB partners, with the hope of establishing best practice for the public sector.

In the long term it is hoped that by increasing the knowledge and experience of planning green infrastructure, more GI projects will be implemented across Carmarthenshire resulting in multifunctional benefits such as health and wellbeing, climate resilience, air quality as well as economic growth.

Changes. Tell us about any issues which have arisen requiring adaptation and, or discussion.

Covid-19 restrictions presented challenges to the organising and completion of a site visit. This was planned for early in the project but due to internal sign off procedures of risk assessments, both within the Council and within WSP, this was delayed. However, the site visit was completed in a timely and safe manner in compliance with all risk assessments.

Covid-19 restrictions has also meant that we could not attend in person meetings with the consultants and so all of our engagement has been done online via Microsoft Teams. This can at times be difficult, but we sought to work around this by setting up a Microsoft Teams group where we could post queries and share information more efficiently.

Tell us the story. What you wanted to happen and what you have achieved. What do you think worked well and why? Include any evidence used in reaching a conclusion and any recommendations. We expect more detail at the end of the project including which sites you have worked on. We would like to see a case study, reflecting the work you have done in each of the Area Statement areas across Wales. We welcome stories, from beneficiaries of the project, of their experience.

Feel free to add additional space below or attach your own report to the email back to us.

Phase 1 of this project has been successful in building a strong knowledge base, in order to inform multifunctional GI masterplans for both sites.

The stakeholder mapping exercise was invaluable in forming the basis of ongoing knowledge gathering and sharing. The study has shown that without speaking to local people or people with working knowledge of the areas, it is difficult to get a real idea of how the spaces are used and how they can best be improved. For example, Jackson's Lane has been generally been highlighted as a social space, but also as one of the only 'green' spaces in Carmarthen Town centre where people can visit and feel somewhat closer to the natural environment. This link between the use of the space and the natural environment will be a key objective as we move forward to finalising the GI masterplan for the space.

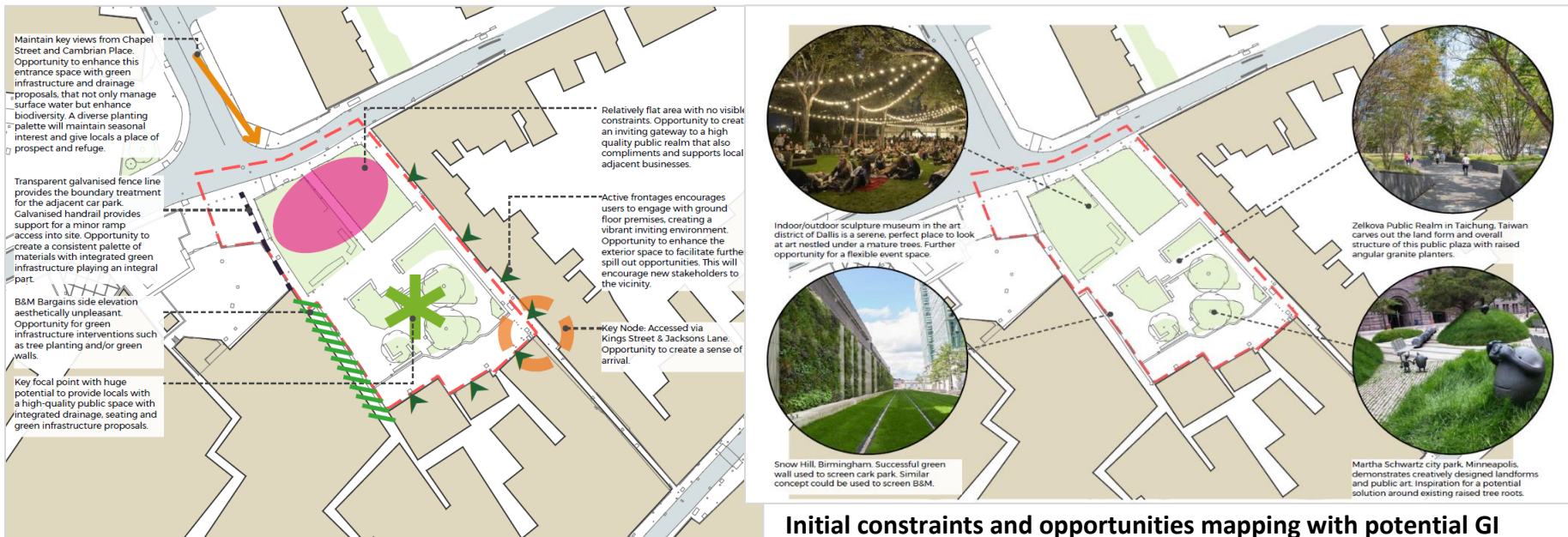
Ideally, we would have been able to go out 'on site' and speak to people in person to get a real idea of how these spaces are used, however due to the pandemic and ongoing restrictions we had to compromise and use online communications with stakeholders. This has been limiting but has allowed us to target key stakeholders for more focussed conversations. It is hoped that, through the proposed stakeholder workshop more colloquial information can be gathered and perhaps, depending on restrictions, some in person consultation can take place in Phase 2.

Phase 1

Jackson's Lane Square

The site visit and landscape study of Jackson's Lane Square identified some key constraints and opportunities for the site. The study has highlighted the use of Jackson's Square as a social space, which provides opportunities for GI to create a vibrant and inviting environment. The use of the space for outdoor meeting and dining has become particularly important during the Covid-19 pandemic and the use of GI will be explored to provide high quality public realm. However, the need for the public realm design to be multifunctional is also apparent. Adequate drainage of water was highlighted as an issue in Jackson's Lane Square and so this study has identified areas where GI interventions such as rain gardens can provide drainage solutions, biodiversity benefits as well as providing amenity value with native and seasonal planting opportunities.

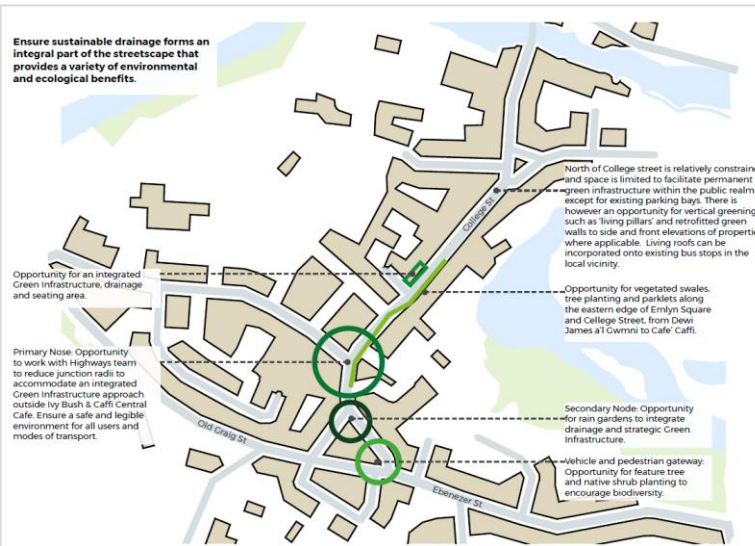
The opportunity and constraint maps will form the basis of discussion for Phase 2 of this project. A stakeholder workshop will be held with participants identified from the GI stakeholder database and will discuss the initial findings of the report. This knowledge gathering and sharing will then be used to finalise a GI masterplan for the site, which will inform the future development of Jackson's Lane Square. This is particularly important, as Jackson's Lane Square has been identified as a key site for development in the Carmarthen Covid Recovery Plan.



Initial constraints and opportunities mapping with potential GI projects for Jackson's Lane Square

Newcastle Emlyn Town Centre

The site visit and landscape study of Jackson's Lane Square identified some key constraints and opportunities for the site. As Newcastle Emlyn is a traditional market town, it has characteristically narrow streets within the town centre which can constrain opportunities for GI interventions. To work around this, the study has identified opportunities for vertical greening such as 'living pillars' and green walls, as well as living roofs on existing infrastructure such as bus stops. Drainage has also been highlighted as a key issue in Newcastle Emlyn and, as with Jackson's Lane, there are opportunities for interventions such as rain gardens, which can provide both drainage solutions and biodiversity benefits. There is also the opportunity for sustainable drainage to also provide traffic calming measures, an issue which has been raised in consultation with local stakeholders.



Initial constraints and opportunities mapping with potential GI projects for Jackson's Lane Square

These opportunity and constraint maps will now form the basis of discussion for Phase 2 of this project. A stakeholder workshop will be held with participants identified from the GI stakeholder database and will discuss the initial findings of the report. This knowledge gathering and sharing will then be used to finalise a GI masterplan for the site, which will inform the future development of Newcastle Emlyn Town Centre. This work will inform the ongoing work that the Council are undertaking to facilitate economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as initiatives such as 'Ten Towns'.

