

Stand for nature Wales – Montgomeryshire & Radnorshire Wildlife Trust



Wildlife and climate summer camp Summer 2023

From rural Montgomeryshire to urban Cardiff, the young people of Wales are taking a stand for nature and their futures.

Stand for Nature Wales is a national youth project that aims to tackle climate change and ecological crises by empowering and inspiring young people to take action for nature and wildlife in their local area. The project is a partnership between the six Wildlife Trusts in Wales. Over 4 years, the project will seek to inspire young people to become leading voices for nature and climate change through practical conservation, spreading the word through film and online social media, and a little engineering.

Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust partnered up in the summer of 2023 to provide the first ever Wildlife and Climate Camp. This was a fully funded camp, open to 13–17-year-olds, that provided all equipment needed so that anyone could access it whether they had camped before or not.

Over the 5 days the young people achieved their John Muir Award through botanical surveying, butterfly and moth identification and camera trapping.

“I got 100% better at identifying insects, plants, and animals etc. I loved meeting and getting to know new people and being independent while camping.”

Taking action

Climate focused workshops were held during the camp, covering topics such as campaigning, climate cafes and placard making. Additionally, the young people worked with a local director to create a portfolio of written work and performances centred around the climate and ecological crisis. At the end of camp, they exhibited these works to parents and local councillors.

In the evenings the participants took part in Campfire Conversations; here young local professionals were interviewed by the fire, about their pathway into the sector as well as their passions and concerns for the future of our wildlife and climate. The group heard from wildlife photographers, ecologists, chefs, and politicians. Our young people had lots of good questions to ask them! These conversations were recorded and have been made into a podcast, [Campfire Conversations](#), that hopes to inspire and connect people at the start of their wildlife and climate journey.

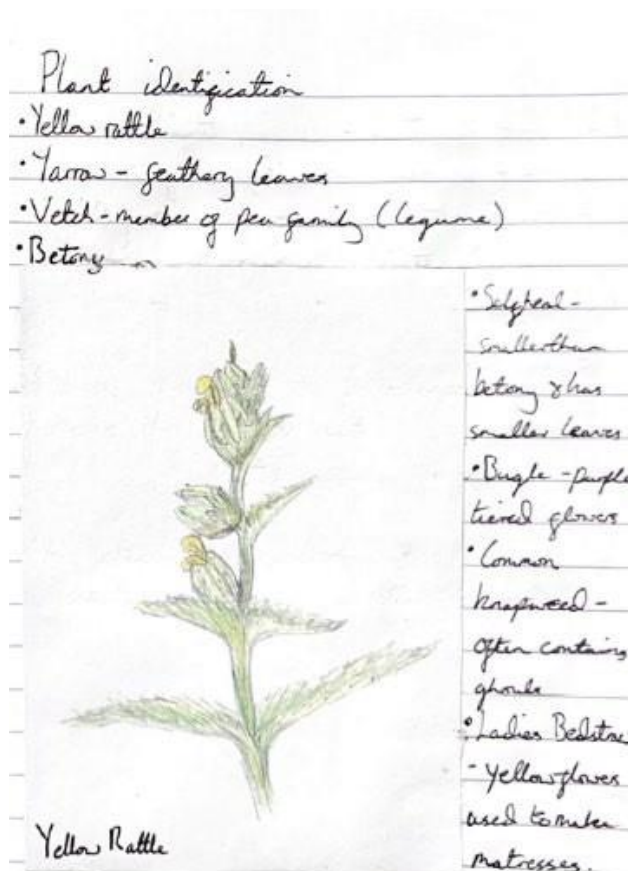
“The camp gave me a sense of community and a group of friends with shared interests and passions”.

Making impacts and connections

Running the John Muir Award throughout this camp was a huge benefit to our young people!

It encouraged them to keep field diaries and develop their artistic abilities by sketching and painting the species that they found. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about John Muir and his activism in our climate café sessions.

These sessions were so successful that we met every month, in order to stay connected and share our inspiration and appreciation for the natural world.



You can find more information about the Stand for Nature Wales campaign and how to get involved in your local area on its [website](#).

Words and images provided by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

Find out more about the John Muir Award at johnmuirtrust.org/award