

# DAVID BELLAMY CONSERVATION AWARD SCHEME PARK ASSESSMENT 2016

<b>Name of park:</b>	The Garth, Machynlleth, Powys
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Julian Jones
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Park representative:</b>	Edward Rhodes



<b>Code</b>	<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
GN1	Overall approach	Garth remains a fine example of working in harmony with the local community and environment	Excellent
GN2	Noise and traffic nuisance	Since the traffic calming measures have been removed there have been few reported problems and the park is tranquil and peaceful.	Very good
GN3	Light pollution	Lighting is kept to a minimum at The Garth	Very good
GN4	Visual intrusiveness	The Garth remains a good example of how many years of careful management can make a park knit seamlessly into the local landscape	Excellent
GN5	Supporting local jobs	A family run park, but local contractors are used wherever needed.	Very good
GN6	Promoting and using local products	Whenever products are required from off the park they will be sourced locally and as ethically as possible.	Very good
GN7	Promoting local shops, businesses, amenities and	The owners continue to encourage people to shop locally and visit some of the many attractions that are located nearby	Very good

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	attractions		
GN8	Links with local community	The Garth continues to work well with the local community.	Excellent
GN9	Links with conservation/charity bodies and projects	A number of activities are run on the park that support a number of local charities.	Very good
GN10	Approach to accessibility	Although extremely difficult terrain there are wheelchair accessible and other easy access areas to a number of parts of this park	Very good

<b>Code</b>	<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
S1	Purchasing policy	Locally sourced materials and local contractors are continue to be used wherever appropriate. No written policy as yet stating that environmentally responsible products should be used.	Good. I still think it would be good to see a written policy one day that states all of the aspirations of the park in this regard.
S2	Overall energy conservation approach	Edward Rhodes is very conscious of the need to conserve energy at all levels with energy efficiency being an important aspect of activities at Garth.	Very good
S3	Transport and vehicles	The park continues to encourage people to use the local public transport system and supports visitors who need lifts to bus, train station etc.	Good
S4	Renewable energy and green energy tariffs	This has been a major project over the past year with many more solar panels being installed to reduce the reliance of the Garth on energy through fossil fuels.	Excellent
S5	Lighting	Energy efficient lighting is still used throughout.	Very good
S6	Space and water heating	See S4	Very good

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S7	Other energy-using devices	Great to see the increased use of PV during the course of the last year.	Good
S8	Waste management approach	Energy efficiency and waste minimisation are the watchwords, but there is still good access to clearly signed recycling facilities and great to see the garden waste being collected from residents.	Excellent
S9	Use of recycled products and waste minimisation	This is all going well on the whole.	Excellent
S10	Waste recycling	All doing very well.	Excellent
S11	Water conservation approach	The owners are very conscious of the need to conserve water.	Very good

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S12	Water saving measures	A variety of water saving measures are used throughout.	Very good
S13	Landscape water permeability	Generally this is very good across the park and there are plenty of places where storm / run-off water is held back from going straight into the nearby river	Very good

<b>Code</b>	<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
E1	Overall impression	Great range of habitats in a maturing pleasant park which provides opportunities for a variety of wildlife and for people to relax and enjoy the experience.	Excellent
E2	Overall approach	Very happy with the balance between formal cultivated areas and wilder wildflower patches.	Excellent
E3	Overall planting policy	Light touch / sensitive management on the whole with many of the bankside vegetation areas being given a tidy up once annually, ensuring that wildflowers have a good chance to flourish.	Very good
E4	Horticultural best practice	One of the best ways forward with this is to encourage a sense of 'ownership' and Edward told me a great story of a resident rescuing a Scot's Pine seedling which is now maturing into a specimen tree on the park	Very good progress including the replacement of Leylandii hedges with beech
E5	Wildlife trails, interpretation and information	In addition to the excellent riverside walk area, there are plenty of places where you can wander through the park and encounter flowers from foxgloves to meadowsweet	Very good
E6	Other visitor activities and involvement	The Garth remains a very quiet park with a nice family feel.	Very good

<b>Code</b>	<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
E7	Open grassland areas	Looks good throughout the park.	Very good
E8	Planting around pitches	This looked extremely good throughout the park	Excellent
E9	Formal gardens and planting	This looks very pleasing and often incorporates either wild flowers or cultivars that are beneficial to bees and other insects.	Excellent
E10	Rivers, streams, ponds and wetland areas	The beautiful river and easy access to it remains one of the jewels of this park.	Excellent
E11	Trees and woodland	Some significant, yet judicious thinning has been carried out at the park over the past year and it does seem to have created a lot more light to benefit the ground flora of the park	Excellent. It is important to think very carefully about where trees are planted in the future and how tall and quickly certain trees grow.
E12	Boundary features	Really interesting to hear about your plans to re-landscape from the main entrance / approach area and bring in more light	Excellent. Please try and limit the removal of any large boughs of some of your wonderful native oak trees.



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E13	Golf courses	N/A	
E14	Bird boxes etc	Plenty of nest boxes found throughout the park.	Excellent

<b>Top Three Recommendations:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="600 274 1935 351">1. Please try and limit the removal of any large boughs of some of your wonderful native oak trees when carrying out enhancement works at the main entrance.</li><li data-bbox="600 383 1935 459">2. If carrying out further tree / hedge planting, think very carefully about where trees are planted and how tall and quickly certain trees grow.</li><li data-bbox="600 491 1935 568">3. I would still like to see a written sustainability policy one day that states all of the aspirations of the park in this regard.</li></ol>
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<p><b>Honey Bee Pledge</b></p> <p>Please give details of what the park has done to meet the Honey Bee Pledge and say whether you think it has met the criteria for being a 'honey bee friendly park'.</p>	<p>I very much support The Garth being awarded 'honey bee friendly park status' on account of its plentiful amount of wildflower and cultivated insect friendly, nectar rich plants. Bee hives are unlikely to be appropriate here although it is possible that the park will work in tandem with bees being kept at the adjacent Dolguog estates as it is a resident of The Garth who is the likely bee-keeper.</p>
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