

SITE CONTEXT AND ANALYSIS



OS map showing wider topography around the Visitor Centre

Park Access

The main vehicular access to the carpark is via Fairyland, connecting the park with the town centre via a residential area comprising post-war housing. Proposals for the upgrading/ extension of the car park are covered by a separate planning application (refer to Zone 05).

Various pedestrian routes run throughout the park and link to the wider surrounding context including the Grade II listed War Memorial Gates at the south of the estate. Recent acquisition of Brynau Wood and Farm to the east of the park by The Woodland Trust provides further opportunity to extend walking routes and increase the permeability of the park.

Visitor Centre Location & Topography

The existing visitor centre sits just south of the existing carpark, to the north of the largest of 4 ponds and reservoirs: Fish Pond. It is centrally located within the main body of the park, albeit Mosshouse Wood extends further to the North East.

To the east of the existing visitor centre, the land slopes up from the bank of the reservoir to the Woodland Trust land. Northeast of the car park sits Mosshouse Wood, where a series of informal cascades take advantage of this sloped woodland. Within this wood sits Ivy Tower, which was built in 1795 as a viewing tower and banqueting area. The Tower is visible within the trees in long-range views from the Visitor Centre although it is not currently marked or referenced.

From the car park the land drops some 1.5m to the ground floor of the existing centre. This slope, along with the existing trees, partially screens the visitor centre from the parking lot. The topography immediately around Fish Pond is generally level, creating potential opportunity for glimpsed long range views to Pond Cottage, which sits on the southernmost bank of the lake, adjacent to the dam. Historically this house was used as a residence for the bailiff in charge of the fishpond, ensuring the pond was stocked with Carp for the residents of Gnoll House. From here, the topography rises once more up to the ruins of Gnoll House.