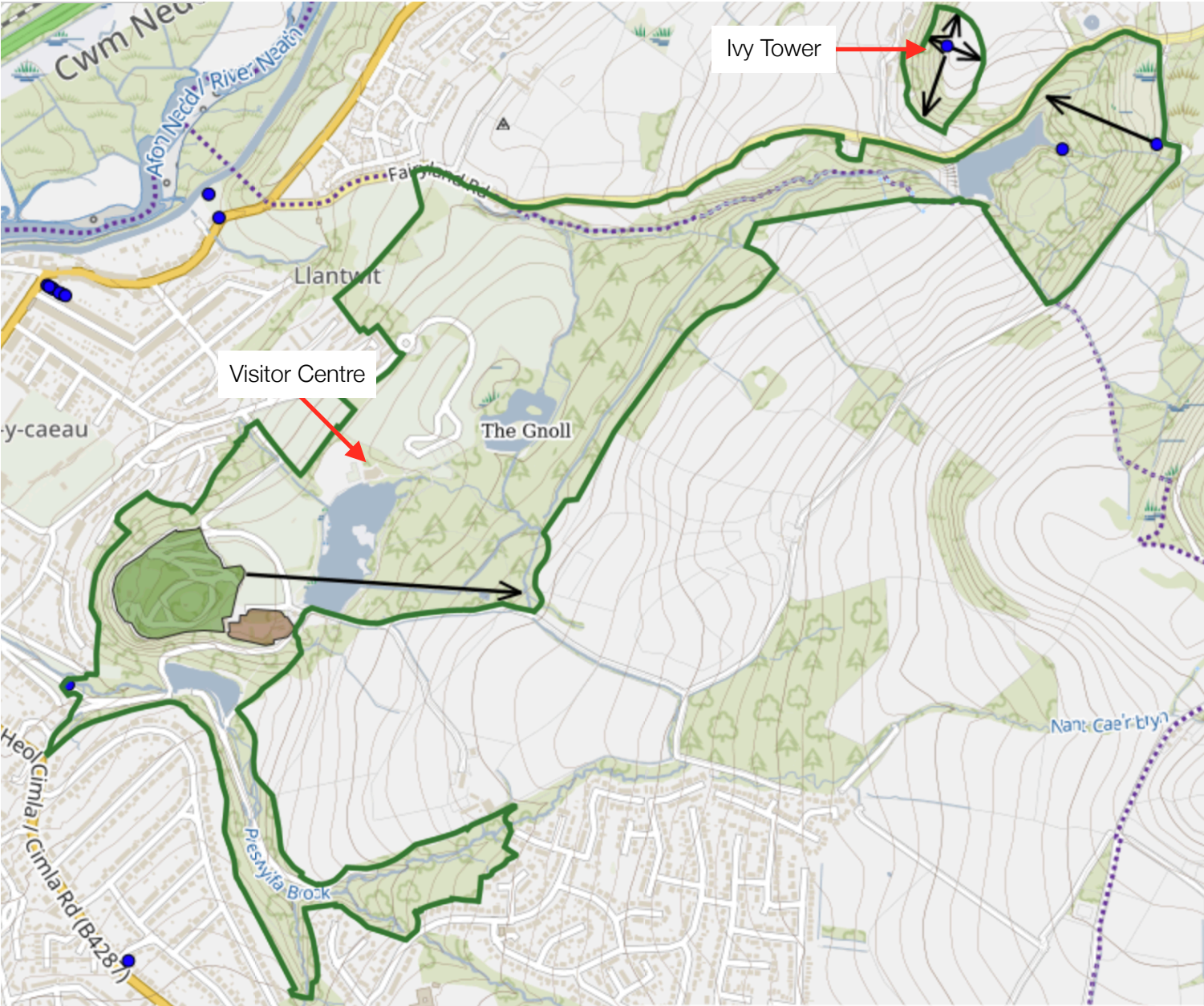




Extract from the Cadw map search.
Visitor centre and Ivy Tower have
been labelled.

Note: significant views from the Ivy
tower are indicated by Cadw using
black arrows.

HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE VISITOR CENTRE

Landscape Character

Built in 1995, the history and architectural value or importance of the visitor centre are limited. Therefore its significance largely relates to the landscape character of the immediate context and the wider parkland setting.

The heritage of the park has been explored within the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which subdivides the park into 7 defined landscape compartments. For each compartment, a key approach has been summarised.

The existing Visitor Centre and proposed site is located within compartment C. This is consistent with the CMP recommendation *'to focus any new recreational developments in this area'*. In addition, the Visitor Centre is located to the north of the Fish Pond (also referred to as the Second pond/ Upper Great Pond / Fishpond / Reservoir B). This pond forms part of Compartment B and is referenced in the CMP, as *'the most important of the 4 ponds at the Gnoll due to its scenic value and recreational potential'*.

In this context, the principal of development of the existing visitor centre site and its immediate environs is considered appropriate. A focus on the principal centres of recreational visitor activity within these areas thus forms a key starting point for the Visitor Centre proposals.

Overview of Social and Communal Value

Although it is a modern addition to the parkland, the visitor centre is a critical part of community engagement with Gnoll Estate Country Park and therefore holds significant communal value in its own right. There has always been a strong connection between Gnoll Estate Country Park and the wider community and since the estate came under the ownership of Neath Port Talbot Council it has transitioned from private to public ownership. In turn, the parkland has consistently remained a popular destination for visitors. In the past, the reservoirs were popular for swimming and boating; today visitors participate in a range of activities throughout the parkland including, walking, golf and fishing. The visitor centre acts as a communal hub and is the current focal point for tourism in the park as the primary location of public facilities.

That being said, the existing building falls short of its potential to provide a coherent and varied visitor experience. Therefore, there is potential to improve the visitor facilities within Gnoll Estate Country Park and increase its social and communal value.

Local Facilities

The Gnoll Estate Country Park is well connected to the surrounding area with good transport links, more details of which can be found within the Project Context Document by **Hiraeth** Architecture.

(Following page) Extract from Conservation Management Plan - Landscape Compartment Designations