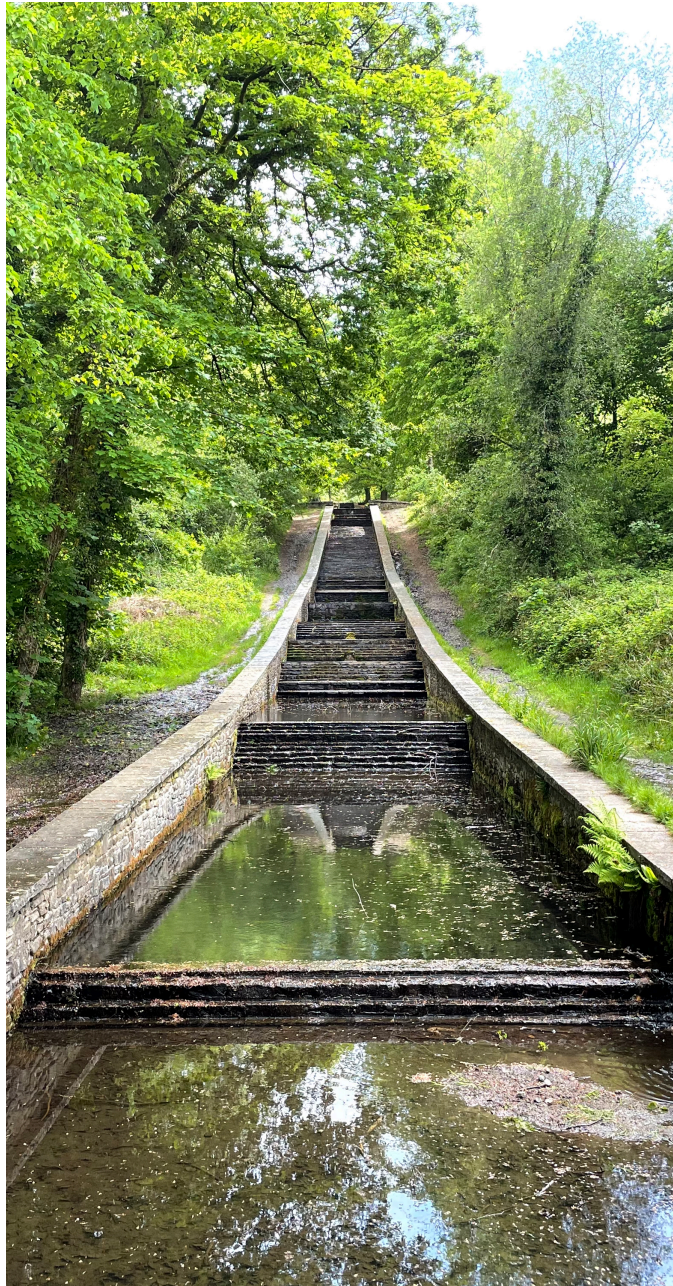




THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Planning Solutions Consulting Limited were commissioned by Neath Port Talbot to develop a visitor experience action plan to enhance the wider parkland, together with assessing the opportunity to introduce a form of overnight visitor accommodation within its boundaries.

The prioritised visitor experience development plan was informed by the site review, strategic context, market assessment, consultation and direct primary research with members of the local community. The visitor research highlighted-specific elements of the visitor experience within Gnoll Estate Country Park which could be enhanced.

Derived from this, the proposal is to develop facilities at Gnoll Estate Country Park, to act as a focal point, gateway and launch pad for residents and visitors to Neath and the wider Vale of Neath incorporating education facilities, interpretation (physical and digital), an enhanced Visitor Centre and café, visitor accommodation, tea room and improved landscaping, all within the context of an evolving historic narrative. Improving the environment and investment of this magnitude will encourage further inward investment by the Public, Private and Third Sector which will contribute to economic growth in the region. The further development of the parkland seeks to apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources in line with the Environment (Wales) Act and will act as a focal point and flagship for the wider Vale of Neath initiative.

Central to this proposal is the reinstatement of the site of the former Gnoll House as the focal point of the parkland. The reinterpretation of the ruins of this building as a functional part of the park will assist in developing the wider interpretation of Neath, and reflect in the association of the community with their historic roots and identity. Gnoll House was at the epicentre of the industrialisation and establishment of the communities up and down the Vale of Neath. Its loss has been significant to its community. The importance of its reinvention is consequently fundamental to rediscovering its reason for being.