

Adventure Playground Extension Ecological Assessment Gnoll Country Park

Gnoll Country Park is currently the focus of a Levelling-up Fund grant which has been approved to improve multiple features within the Park (for full details please see The Stage 2 Report. Rev_B. Hiraeth).

The project has been subdivided up into multiple planning applications and the focus of this report is the extension to the existing adventure playground.

This area was surveyed in January 2025 by Megan Price (Ecologist), which is not the optimal time of year for habitat surveys, however due to the surveyors familiarity with the site and also the habitats present, this was not considered to be a constraint to this assessment.

The Proposed adventure playground extension is located on species poor amenity grassland to the South East of the existing adventure playground.

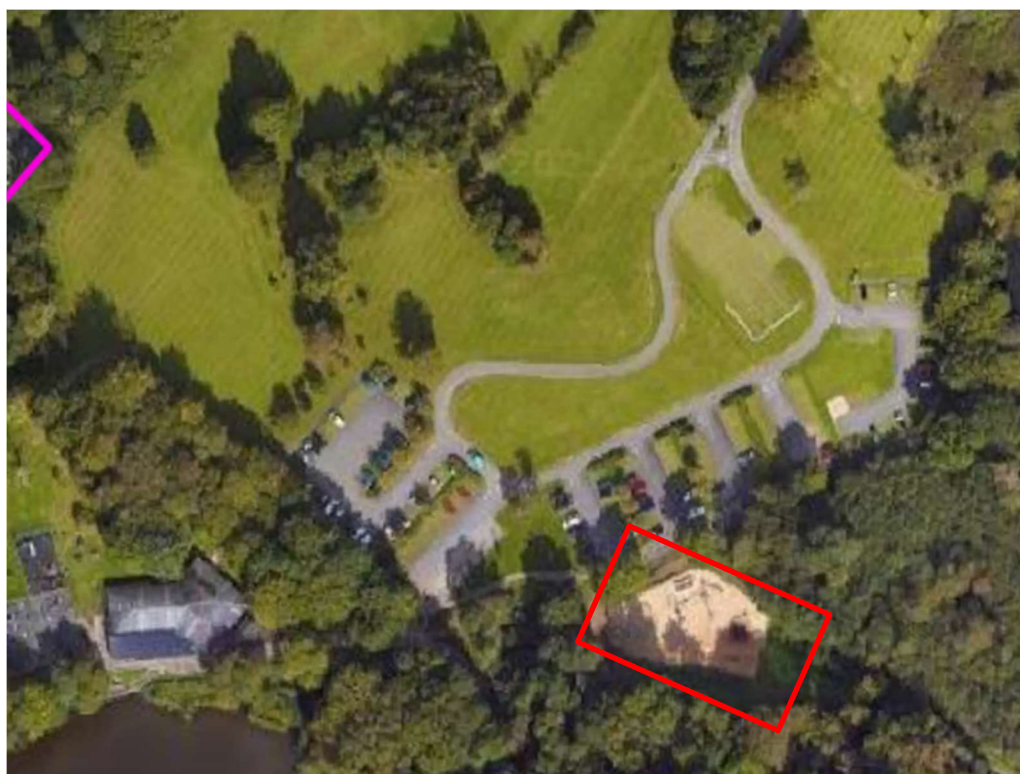


Figure 1- Location of Existing Adventure playground

The extension of the adventure playground will result in the loss of a small number of very immature

trees, which are currently on the border between the proposed playground extension and an area which was cleared for the new service yard (this has since been removed from the plans). It is referred to as a woodland, however, it is natural regeneration that has never been appropriately managed, resulting in an area containing only small immature trees, which is very dense and doesn't allow the trees to mature, or for the understory to develop.

To ensure there is an overall biodiversity enhancement provided as part of this scheme, Figure 1 below shows the soft landscaping that is proposed: 14 trees will be planted around the adventure playground area, with appropriate native understory planting as a buffer between the extension area and the surrounding woodland.

411m² of species-poor amenity grassland will be lost as part of this scheme, 87m² will be seeded with Emorsgate EW1. 193m² of understory planting will be used as a buffer around the edge of the extension area.

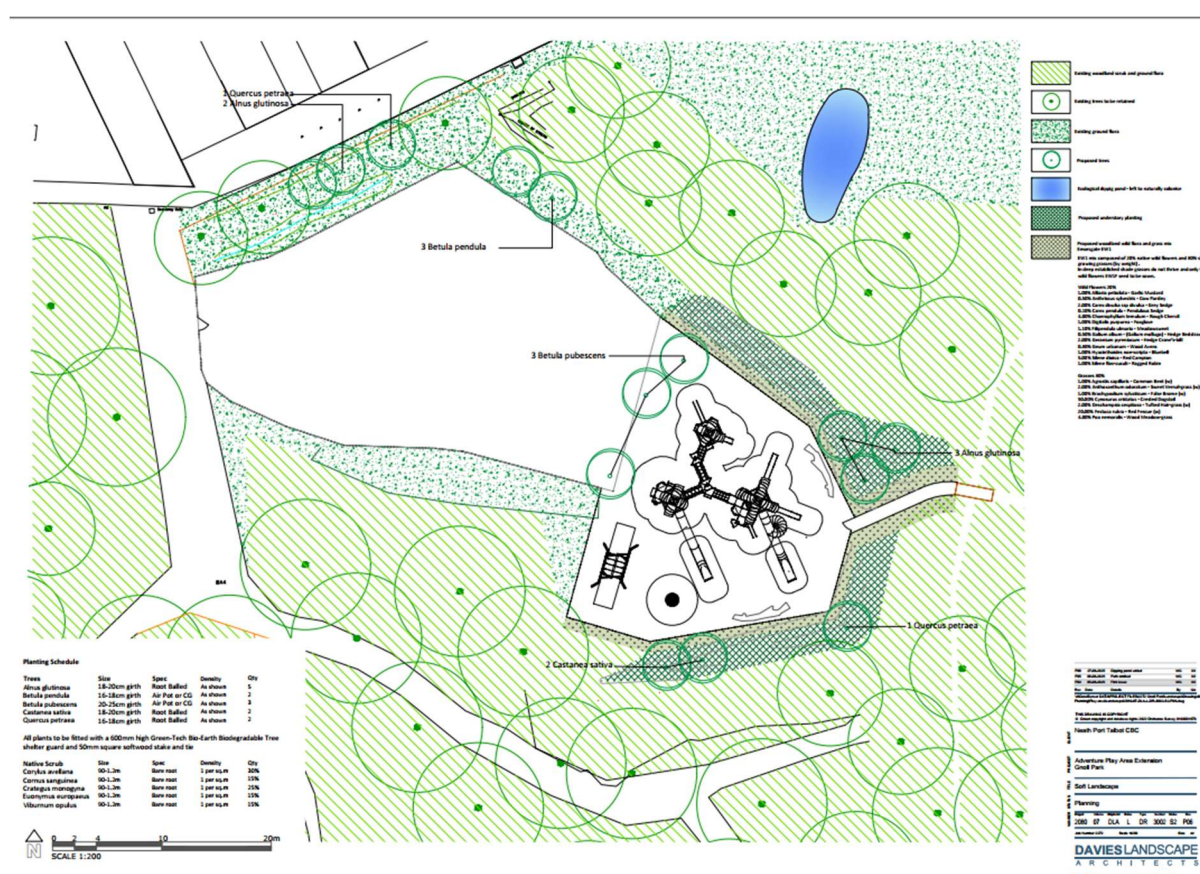


Figure 2 – Adventure Playground Landscaping Proposals

Biodiversity Report

In addition to the tree planting and wildflower meadow, a wildlife pond area has been created to the North East of the existing adventure playground. This area (~700m²) was cleared for the proposed new service yard, however, that development has not gone ahead so this area was just left empty.

As part of the proposed adventure playground works, this area has now been tidied up; the stumps that were left have been removed and put to one side to form hibernacula feature for reptiles and amphibians; the chippings which were left in piles have also been used to form the hibernacula feature.

An excavator has been used to form dips and ditches, which take advantage of the naturally high-water level of that area, to create a wetland area which will provide breeding opportunities for amphibians and other pond inhabiting species.