

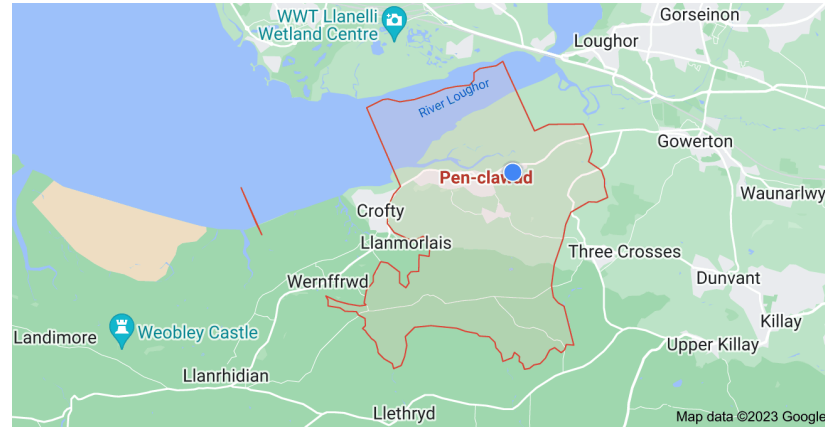


Sustainability in the Early Years

Section A

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Discover



Throughout my childhood, I have always loved being outdoors, playing in the garden and around my local village. As I have got older, life has got busier with work, family and daily commitments, it is something I have sadly lost touch with. Participating in the John Muir award has given me the opportunity to experience the happiness I felt as a child when being outdoors and has allowed me to reconnect with nature.

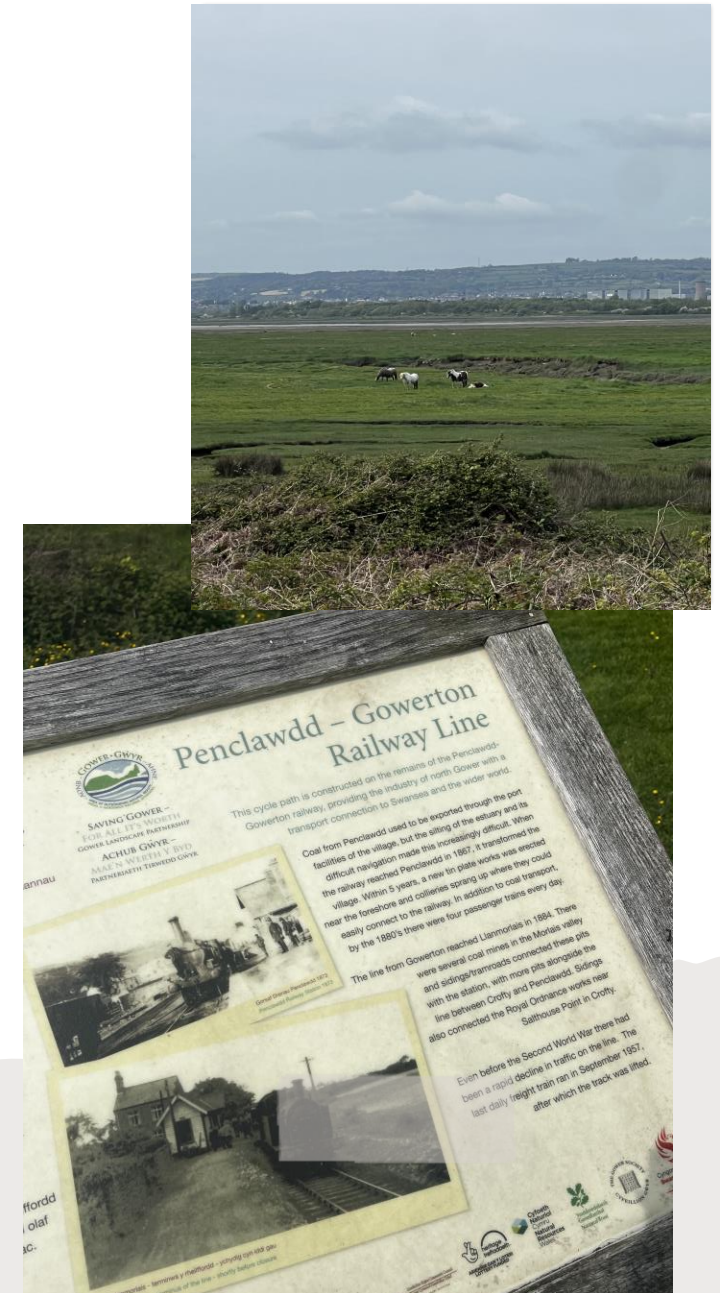
I have lived in Penclawdd with my family my whole life and have been going for walks along this cycle path, located at Penclawdd Estuary, since I was a child. Now that I am older, I want to explore and discover deeper about the wildlife that lives at the local cycle path, the history behind it and how we as humans can help to conserve and protect it.



Discover the area

Penclawdd, situated in the North of the Gower Peninsula, is a beautiful, peaceful village with lots of wildlife. It also has a view of the Estuary, where the marsh horses live.

During this award, I discovered and learnt some history about Penclawdd that I wasn't aware of before. From research, I discovered that the cycle path used to be a railway line between 1867-1931, running from Penclawdd to Gowerton. I then went on to find out that this is the same railway line my grandparents would use when they were younger.



Explore

Whilst exploring, I noticed the amount of birds living in the trees along the path. The sound of the birds chirping was unmissable. The birds live here to nest, feed and mate.

Sadly, whilst exploring I came across a lot of litter, despite there being bins on the path. Littering has many damaging side effects to nature, wildlife and climate change.



The wildlife I
spotted
along the
cycle path



The beautiful greenery of the cycle path





Conserve

By taking part in the John Muir award, it has made me realise how important it is to look after our environment to ensure it is sustainable.

I decided to help conserve this area by building insect houses out of leaves and sticks I found on the floor. This provides a safe hideaway for insects, whilst using natural resources.

In addition to this, I created anti-litter posters and hung them up on the gates along the path. I did this to remind people the damage littering has on nature and wildlife and hopefully make them think twice before littering in the future.

Reflection

Completing the John Muir reward has allowed me to bond and reconnect with nature. It has made me realise how much the environment means to me and how important it is to look after and conserve it. This award has allowed me to learn more about the damage littering has on the environment and has inspired me to teach others how to conserve an area to help achieve a sustainable future.

