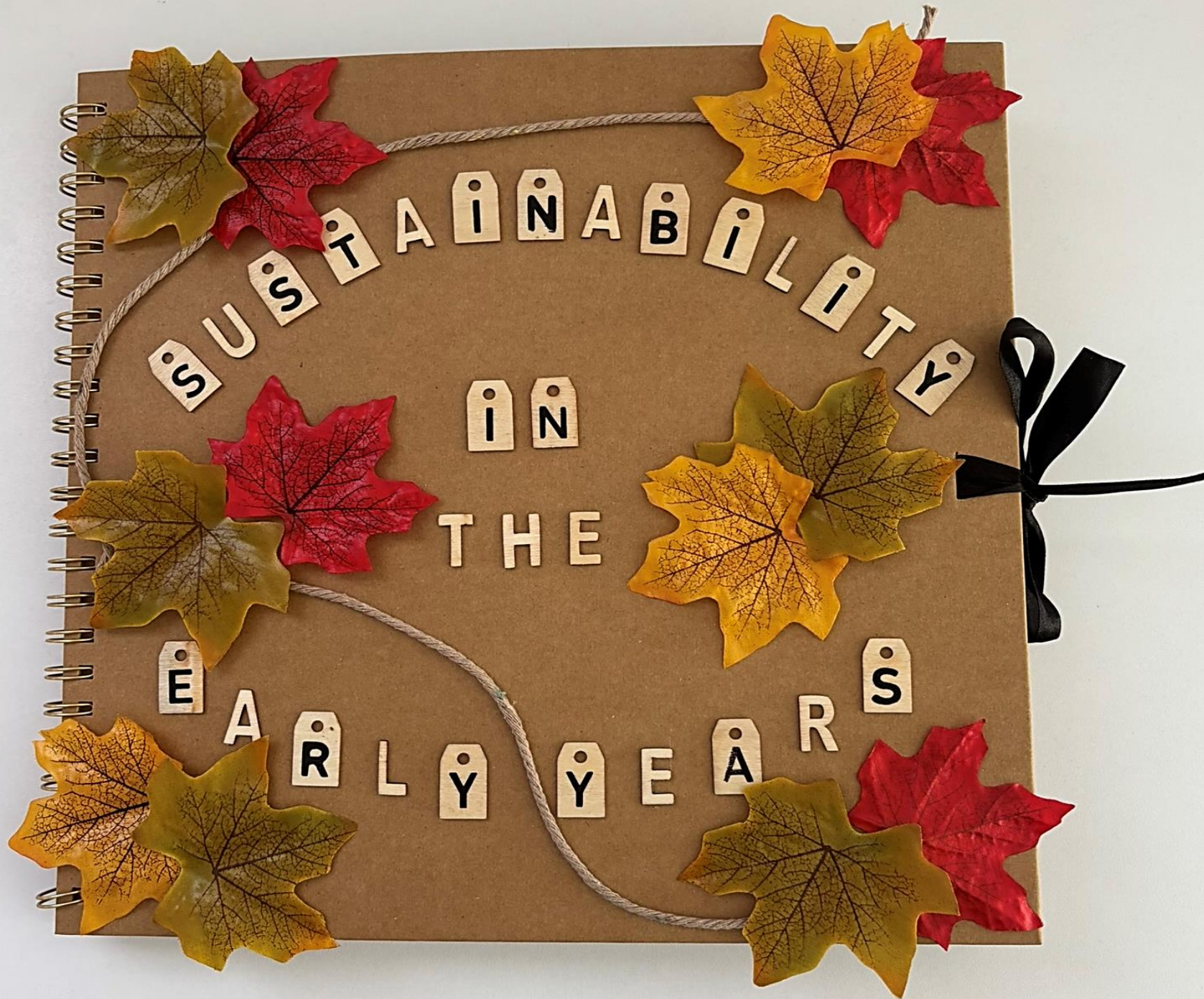




Sustainability in the Early Years - Scrapbook

Module Code: ECEY6005

Student Number: 2205231



DISCOVER

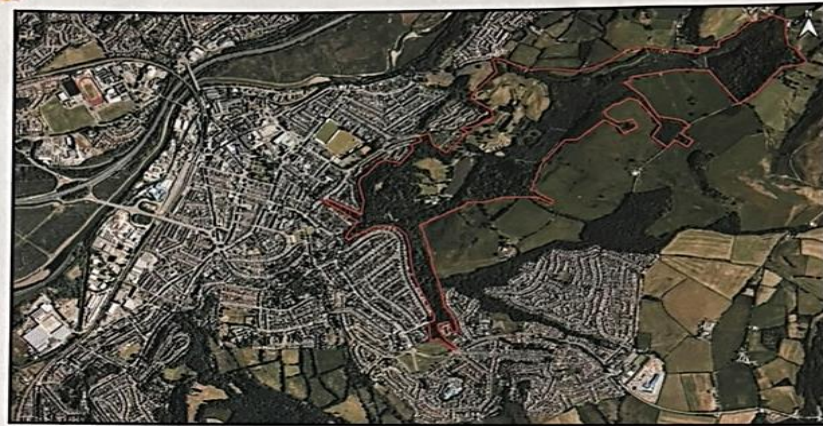
THE
GNOLL
COUNTRY
PARK



For this project I have chosen my favourite location - The Gnoll Country Park. Growing up in Port Talbot I have always been surrounded by transportation emissions, light pollution, and air pollution from the local Steel Works facility. The Gnoll Country Park has always been our family's escape from the hustle and bustle of the busy town of Port Talbot.



LOCATION



250 0 250 500 m
Parc Gwlledig Ystad y Gwll - Castell-Nedd - Cymru
Gwll Estate Country Park - Neath - Wales

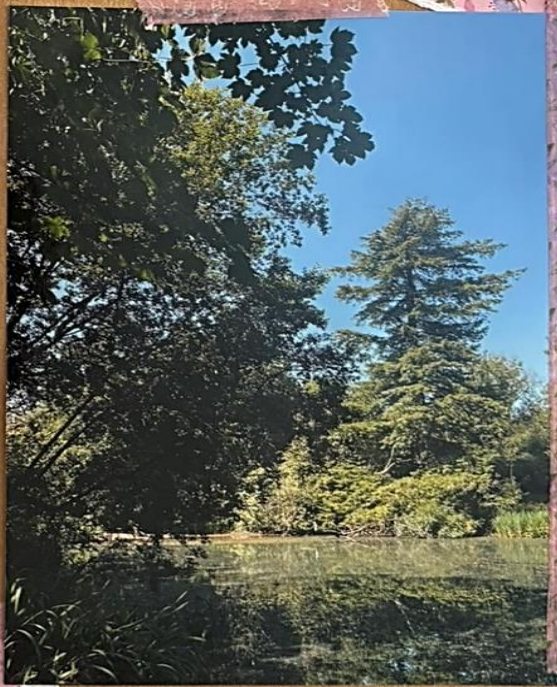
To highlight the location of the Gwll Country Park relative to the town of Neath, my partner (a bioscientist with experience of Scientific Cartography), assisted me in the making of the map shown above. Situated above the town of Neath, South Wales, the ornamental Woodland park is known for its scenic walking trails and tranquil lakes/ponds. Often there are family events held, making it the go-to family day out destination.



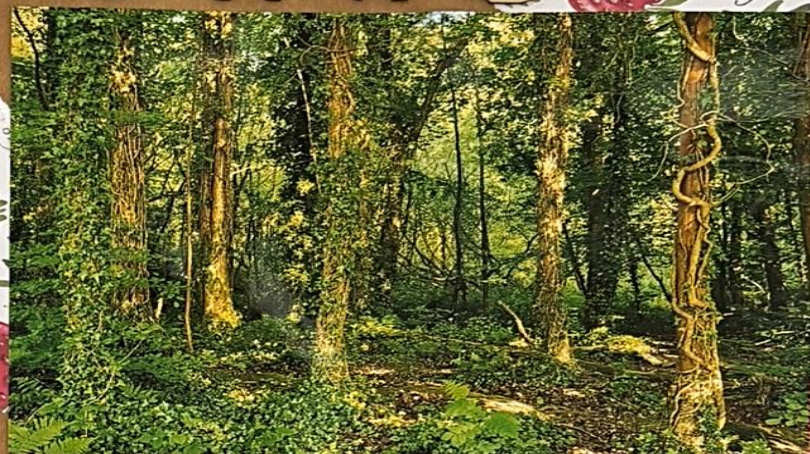
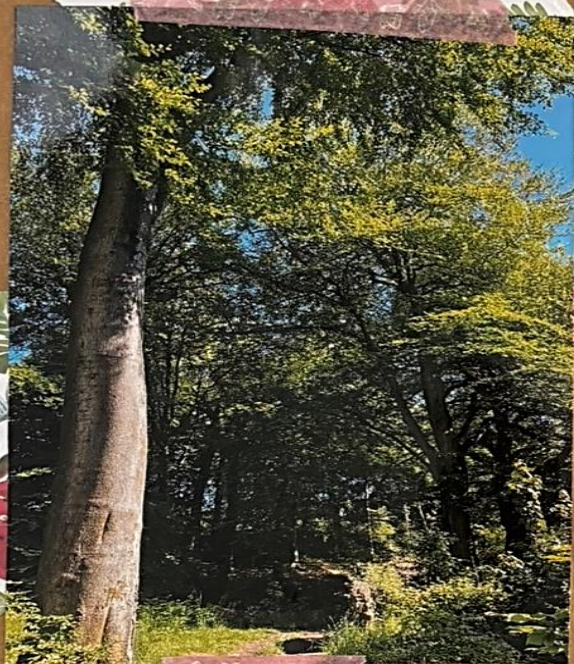
HISTORY



The Gnull Country Park has a substantial historical background dating back to the early 18th century. Initially owned by the Mackworth family, the commission of the Gnull House began in 1776. Over the years the estate changed hands several times before being acquired by Neath Corporation in 1923.



WOODLAND

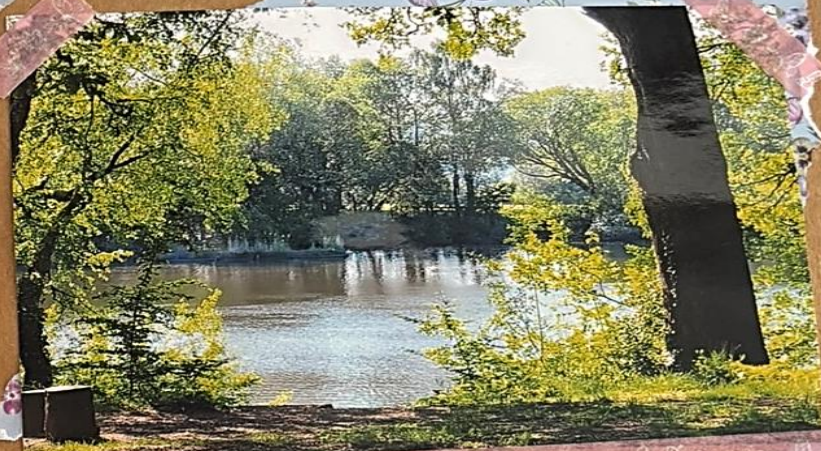
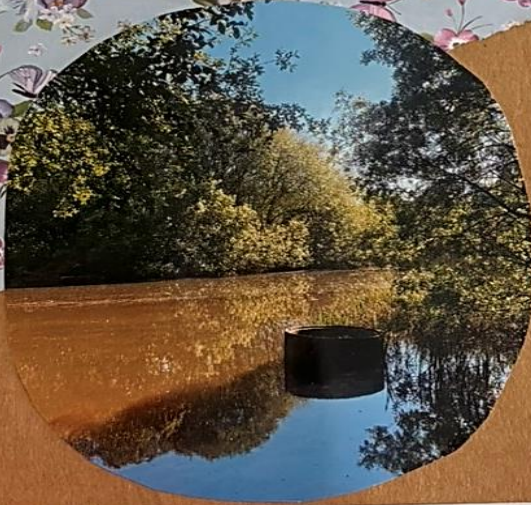


HABITATS

With around 200 acres of Woodland The Grouse Country Park offers an array of habitats for local wildlife. Woodland habitats are incredibly important for wild life as they provide shelter, food, and the appropriate breeding grounds for a plethora of species. Additionally woodlands are widely important for sustainability as they absorb carbon dioxide, improving air quality.



FRESHWATER HABITATS



Fresh Water habitats Such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands Support diverse ecosystems Such as fish, aquatic plants, and amphibians. Additionally, fresh Water Systems Play a key role in upkeeping water quality, Carbon sequestration, and Surface Water retention (flood Prevention)



WHAT
CAN
I
DO
MORE
HERE



Painted Lady

Whilst exploring the flourishing greenery, I spotted a beautiful butterfly resting on some flowers. Ensuring I approached the small winged insect quietly I was able to capture the photographs above. After further research I was able to utilise a Butterfly Identification chart to discover the species - A Painted Lady. Butterflies play an important role in their ecosystem. Being pollinators butterflies encourage plant re-production, leading the growth of fruits, seeds, and new plants.

Butterfly identification



The Grey Squirrel

As beautiful as the Grey Squirrel is, they are unfortunately classed as an invasive species in the UK + Wales. These Squirrels have a substantial negative impact on native Red Squirrels and the eco systems they inhabit. Grey Squirrels strip bark from trees which causes damage and tree death. Overall both the loss of red squirrels and tree damage causes a large negative impact on the biodiversity of Woodlands.



Walking through the
greenery,
I heard a chirp from
a nearby tree.
My eyes dart up;
Oh! What can I see?
A Red Chested Robin
Staring down at me.

Robin - A short poem
composed by myself.



R O B I N

BRITISH BIRDS ID GUIDE WOODLANDS

This guide is for birds commonly found
in the British woodlands & gardens.



Robin



Collared Dove



Great Tit



Goldfinch



Chaffinch



Wood Pigeon



Blackbird



Starling



Blue Tit



House Sparrow



Magpie

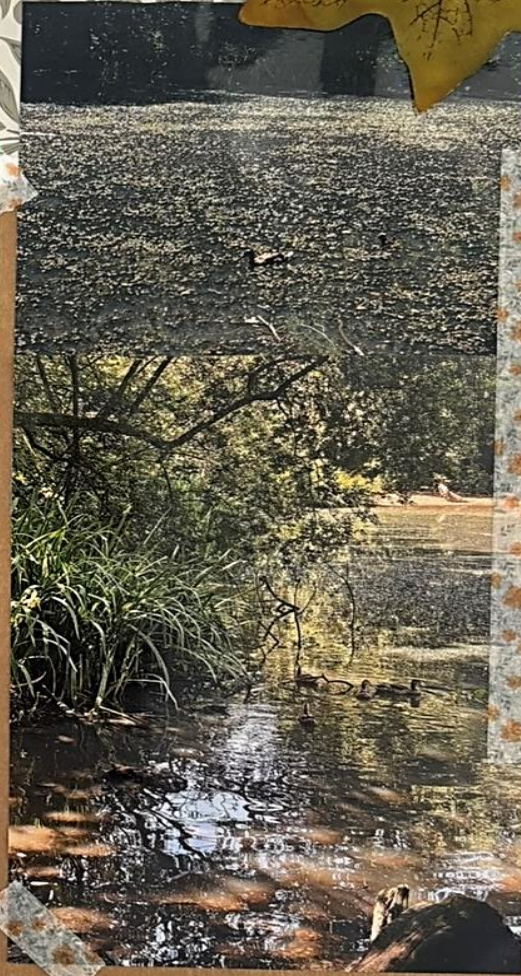


Carrion Crow

DUCKS

There are many species of Ducks, Swans and Geese at the Groll Country Park. All of which play a complex role to sustainability. On one hand Ducks distribute various plants and animals, positively contributing and enhancing biodiversity. Additionally ducks maintain + minimize the amount of uneaten food in the lakes, which could potentially lead to Algae blooms. However, many individuals overfeed the ducks at the lake, this can have a negative impact on the environment eventually leading to water pollution + habitat destruction.

QUACK!





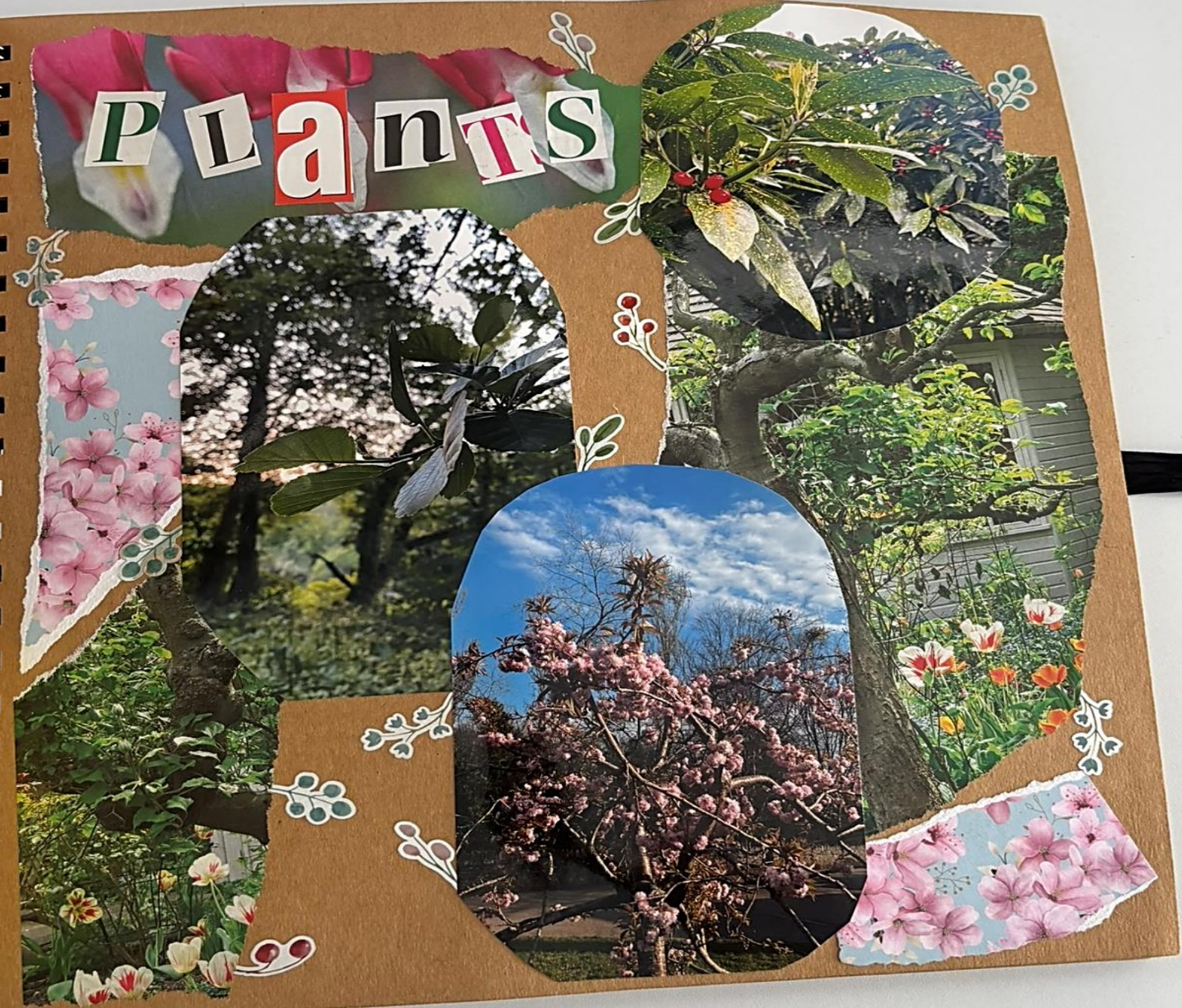
flowers



There are a plethora of flower + plant species at the Groll Country park. With the floral scents flowing through the air you cannot help but to stop and smell the beautiful flowers. This was one of my favourite things to do as a child.



Plants



CARVINGS

Utilising what is left of fallen trees, local artists create wooden carvings depicting local wildlife, scenery, and mythology. This demonstrates the sustainable nature of the Gynoll Country Park. Through the use of repurposed materials, they are able to remind visitors of the importance of conservation and sustainability in Wales.



CONSERVE

PROJECT ONE



Bug Hotel

For my first Conservation Project I made a Bug Hotel out of a recycled cardboard cat food box and empty cardboard toilet rolls painted with non-toxic paint to prevent harm to insects + wildlife.

Although a large bug hotel has recently been installed at one of the most visited areas of the park I felt that it was important for more secluded areas to receive the same conservation efforts. After discussing my plan with the grounds keeper I was informed that due to regulations I was unable to keep my bug hotel there. Never the less, I put the mini hotel into good use in our communal garden. Ensuring all types of insects are safe and thriving.



Bugs Are Important!

This is a
Cinnabar
Moth
Caterpillar →



Insects or 'Bugs' play a crucial role in upkeep and maintaining a healthy and balanced environment. Pollinators such as Bumblebees and Butterflies are essential for growing flowers, fruits, and vegetables, a key component of agricultural practices. Other insects such as Ants and Beetles play an important role in recycling decomposing biomass. Without insects in our environment, natural nutrient cycling processes would collapse.



Why a Bug Hotel?



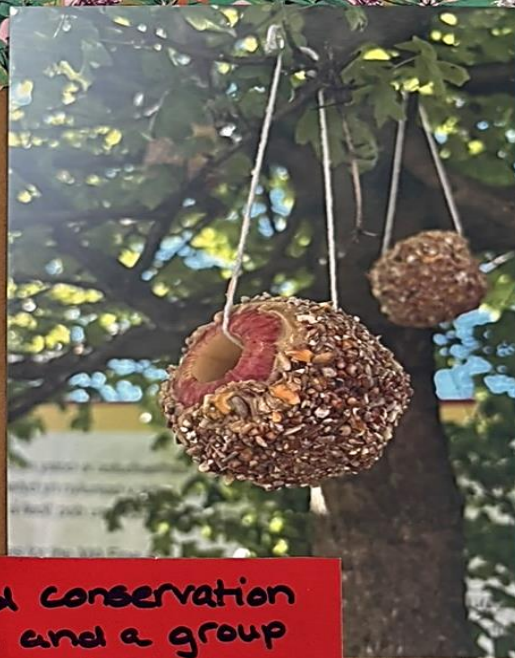
Insects require food, water, moist conditions, and large amounts of shelter to thrive. In order to avoid predators, insects take shelter in or under damp and dark environments, such as deadwood, leaf litter, and large rocks, etc..

The Bug Hotel that I created provides a dark, sheltered, and safe environment, further promoting insect inhabitation.



APPLE BIRD FEEDERS

PROJECT TWO



For my second conservation Project myself and a group of friends created Apple Bird Feeders using apples, Peanut butter, and Bird seeds.

Step 1

Lay out a pile of Bird Seed. You can create your own Bird feed using a mixture of Seeds, nuts, and dried fruit.



Step 2

Core your apple



Step 3

Using a Spoon and Organic Peanut butter, Smear and coat the apple entirely.





Step 4

Roll your Peanut butter Coated apple in the pile of bird Seed.

Step 5

Ensure all Seeds are stuck on

Step 6

Using Some String or a recycled Shoe lace,

Thread the string through the apple and tie a knot. Your bird feeder is complete!



Protect Welsh Wildbirds



Wildbirds in Wales play a key role in ecosystem processes such as seed dispersal, pest control, and nutrient enrichment (guano). All wild bird species in Wales are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This is to deter and enforce punishment of purposeful disturbance.

SHARE

Tomato
Plant ↘

Cucumber
(Plant) →



Due to my partner being a biobscientist, we share the same passion for conservation and sustainable living. Throughout our time living together we have spent many years growing our own fruit, vegetables, and flowers. Growing one's own produce is highly sustainable compared to shop-bought produce, due to the lack of transportation emissions

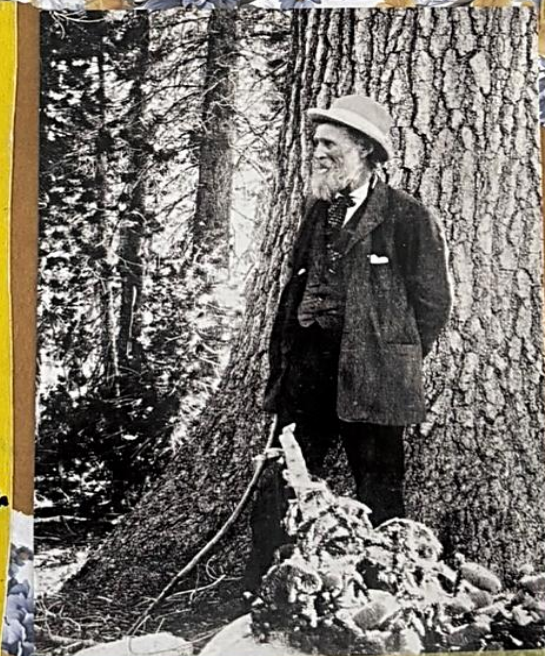


Sharing this scrapbooking experience with friends, making birdfeeders, and further developing our knowledge on Conservation together has been a wonderful experience. It has allowed us to share ideas, opinions, and morals, further enhancing the quality of our Sustainability efforts.

JOHN

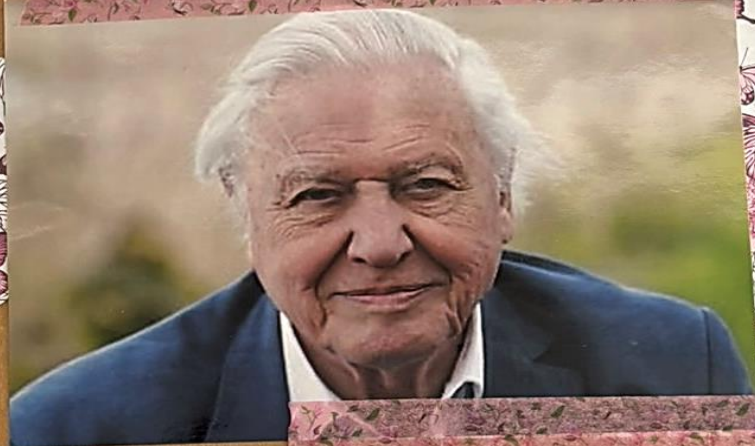
MUIR

John Muir was a progressive naturalist and conservationist. His activism led to the establishment of largely known US national parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia. Muir's passion for the outdoors assisted in shaping modern conservation ethics, emphasising the ingrained value of nature.



However, John Muir's legacy is considered to be controversial due to his contribution in the colonisation of Indigenous lands. Often ignoring or disregarding Native American's rights and relationship to the lands. Further justifying the displacement of Indigenous Peoples.

{Sir David} {Attenborough}



Sir David Attenborough is a worldwide - known natural historian and Conservationist, who has had a profound impact on global conservation. Opposed to John Muir, through the media of documentaries and television programmes such as Planet Earth David Attenborough's message on the seriousness of conservation, climate change, and sustainability has reached millions of people globally.



Thank you for listening!

Are there any questions?