



Regaining Paradise? Sustainability in the Early Years

ECEY6005

A LOOK AT SANDY WATER PARK IN
LLANELLI, FOR THE JOHN MUIR AWARD

BY KEIRA REES - 2317112

Discover

SANDY WATER PARK, LLANELLI



I chose to go to Sandy Water Park as it is one of mine and my children's favourite places to visit. It has a beautiful lake with a path that takes you around the whole lake, monuments, a woodland area with a path that takes you from one end to the other, and lots of wildlife. I also have family history of the site.



Then and Now

THEN - DUPORT STEEL WORKS



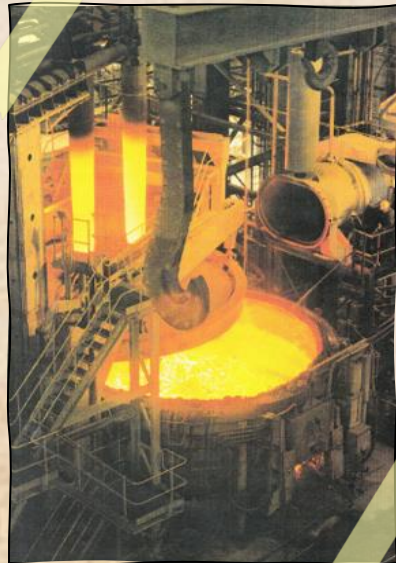
(Source: McVicar, 2012)

In 1866, the site was used for iron making by the Old Castle Iron and Tinplate Company.

Over one hundred years the site was continuously expanded with more mills and furnaces being added.

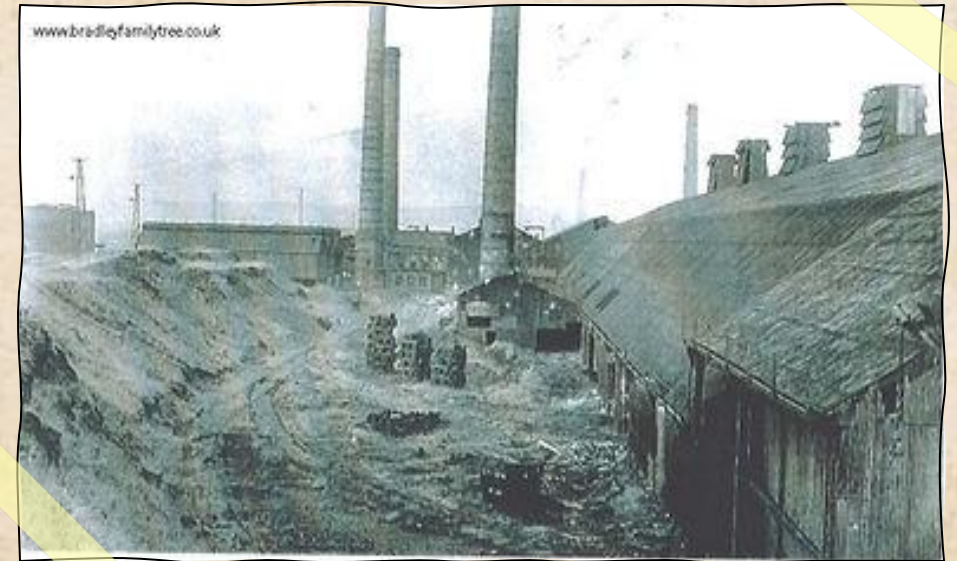
In 1980, the company encounter many difficulties and ultimately, in March of 1981, went into liquidation (McVicar, 2012).

My grandfather worked here as a maintenance fitter from 1972 until 1978.



(Source: McVicar,

←
An arc furnace



(Source: Sandy Water Park Residents Association, Llanelli, no date)

NOW – SANDY WATER PARK

Once the steel works were decommissioned, a man-made lake was created. This is now what is known and loved by the public as Sandy Water Park.

Since the development of the lake, trees were planted in the area which led to there being a woodland area.



Steelworks
memorial



Explore

WHAT DID WE SEE?



I took my children to explore the area.
We looked at the lake and saw a
mother swan with her cygnets, this
was our favourite part of our visit.
We also saw other birds, insects and
flowers.



Robin



Black-headed Gull





Food sources



We saw some beautiful flowers, and a few bees collecting pollen.



Butterfly



**A plastic bird feeder!!
We did not think this was safe**



Dragonfly



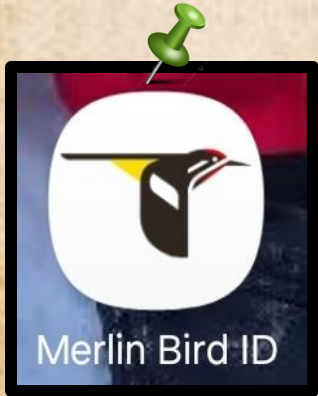
THE MAJESTIC SWAN

BY KEIRA REES

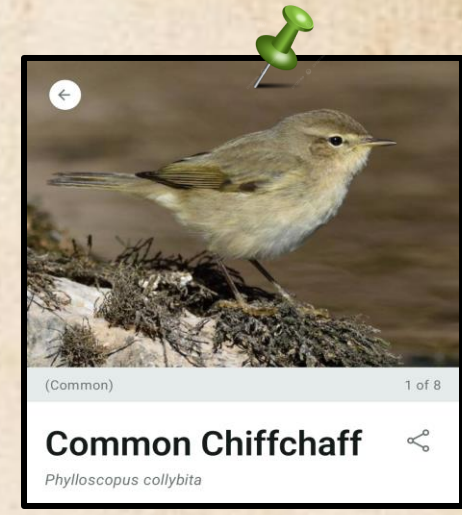
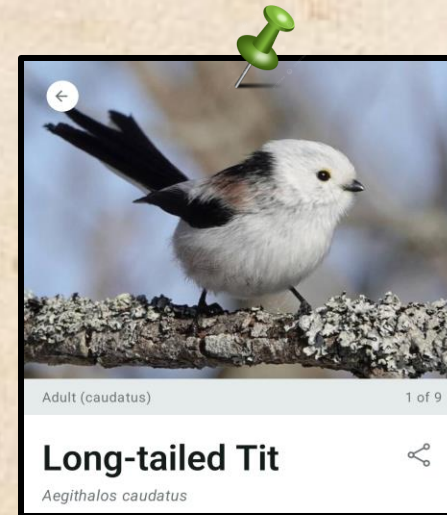
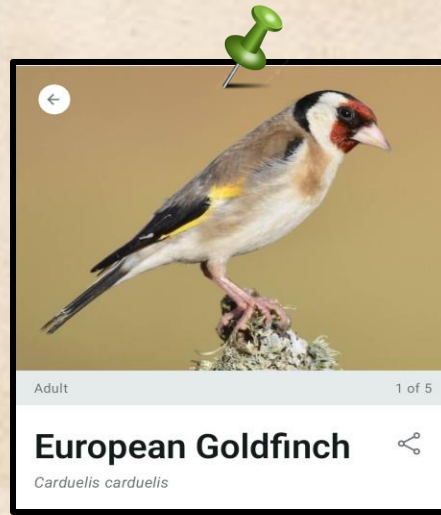
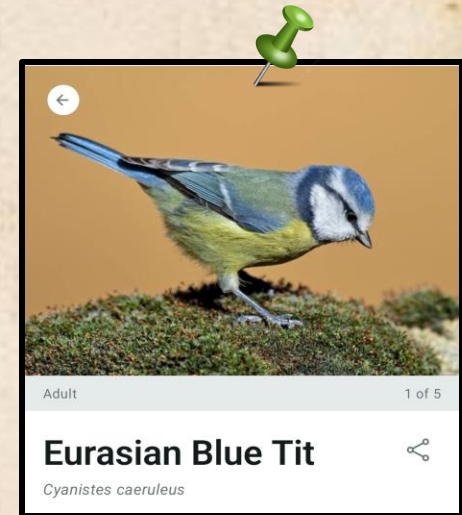
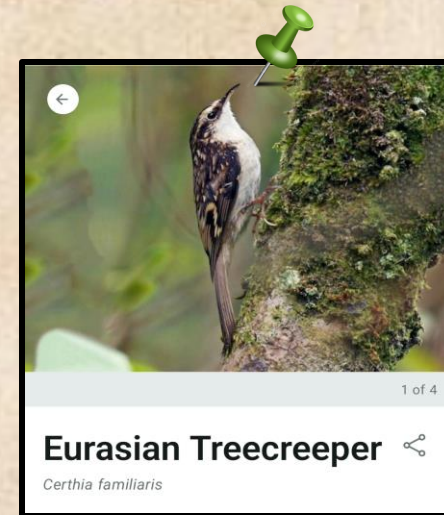
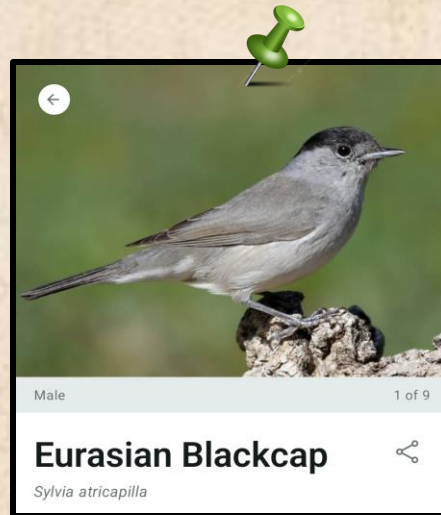
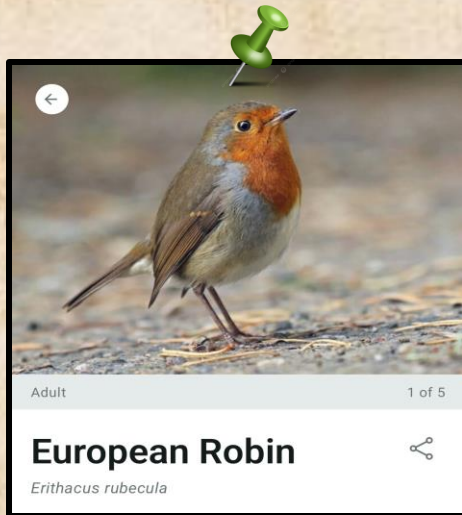
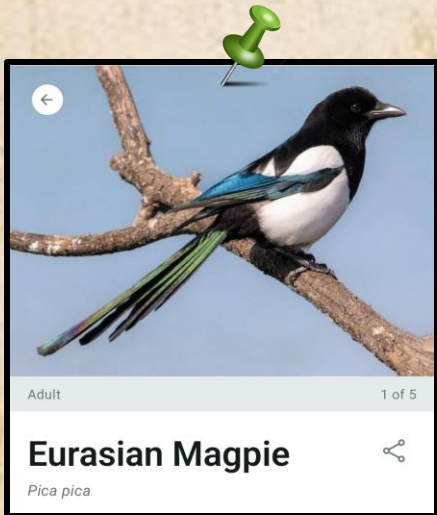


As we near the lake, what is it that we see?
Something so beautiful, swimming so free,
Something so graceful, oh my what can it be?
The majestic swan, that is what I see,
Gliding through the ripples with his head held
high,
And a neck so long it can reach the sky,
He opened his wings ready to fly,
The majestic swan, it was time to say
goodbye.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?



We could hear lots of different birds singing in the trees, but we could not see them. So, we used this app, Merlin Bird ID, to record and identify them.





THE WOODS



7/13/2025



WHAT WE FOUND IN THE WOODS

The woods were absolutely beautiful! We loved walking through them, but we were so shocked to see all the rubbish left behind by people who had been there. It looks like a part of the woods is used for a camp of some sort, as we could see remnants of a campfire where we found most of the rubbish.



Broken
glass
& bottle



Plastic bag



Tin can



Plastic bottles



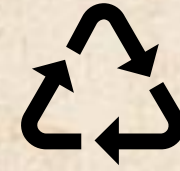
Sweet and
crisp
wrappers



Conserve

LITTER PICKING

The first thing we had to do after seeing all that rubbish was to go litter picking to help the wildlife and ecosystem.



Much better!



Two FULL bags!!



ARTWORK FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

We decided to create artwork and models out of recycled materials, this was fun and made us think of all the possibilities of using recycled materials for different uses.



↖ The witch from Room on the Broom made from cardboard rolls, paper, plastic and material



↖ A boat made from plastic bottles



It floats!



↑ Flower picture made from crisp packets and card from a box

OTHER WAYS TO HELP THE WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

Natural bird feeders made from pinecones seeds, and peanut butter.



Planet more flowers for bees.



(Source: Just Bee, 2022)



(Source: Just Bee, 2022)



We went to a workshop that was making bee houses for bees to lay eggs in.



Share

Share with others

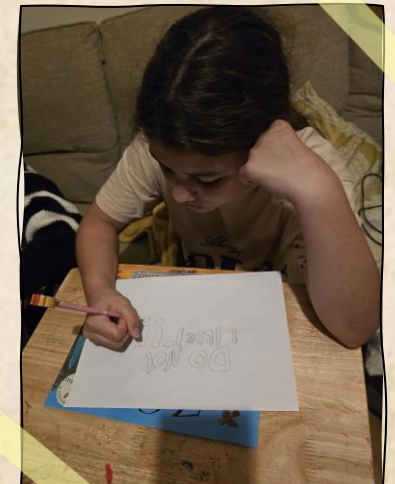
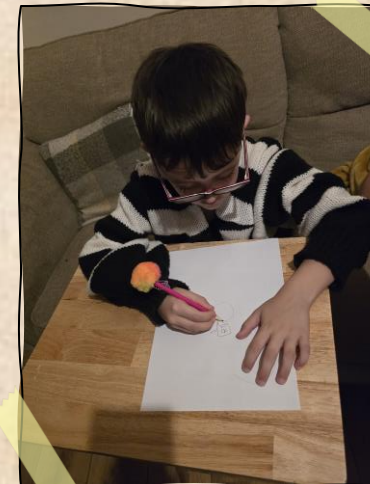
This scrapbook will be shared with other practitioners, children and parents.

posters!



Social Media

Share the artwork that has been made through groups within schools and social media pages.



Litter picking and recycling posters that we made at home. These can be made in schools.

John Muir

WHO IS JOHN MUIR?

John Muir was a conservationist and activist who believed in protecting wild places.

He was passionate for wild places as he explored and wrote about them.

He believed that protecting wild places is vital to wildlife and people's well-being (John Muir Trust, no date b).

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE AWARD?

The aim of the John Muir Award is to encourage people to connect with wild places and the environment.

It aims to give people insight and understanding to these wild places and how we can conserve them.

The John Muir Award does this through discovering, exploring and conserving the area looked at, and then sharing experiences (John Muir Trust, no date a).

I have used ChatGBT to create the photo on front cover of this scrapbook.
I used the prompt: Can you create a photo of children holding the world.

Photos without a reference are authors own.

Reference List

John Muir Trust (no date)a *John Muir Award*. Available at: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/award> (Accessed: 2 July 2025).

John Muir Trust (no date)b *About John Muir*. Available at: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/about-us/about-john-muir> (Accessed: 2 July 2025).

Just Bee (2022) *Wwild flower seeds* [online image]. Available at: <https://justbeehoney.co.uk/products/free-bee-saving-seeds> (Accessed: 30 June 2025).

McVicar, E. J. (2012) *DUPORT STEEL A Brief History By the late E.J.McVicar (1922 – 2011)*. Available at: <https://www.pwllmag.co.uk/spdf/spdf16.pdf> (Accessed: 28 June 2025).

McVicar, E. J. (2012) *Steel works and sandy water park* [online photo]. Available at: <https://www.pwllmag.co.uk/spdf/spdf16.pdf> (Accessed: 28 June 2025).

Sandy Water Park Residents' Association, Llanelli (no date) *Steel Works at Sandy* [online photo]. Available at: <https://smiths29.wixsite.com/sandy-water-park/steelworks-at-sandy-water-park> (Accessed: 28 June 2025).