

## Riverside Park, Mountain Ash.

We are proud to have been awarded a prestigious British Association of Landscape Industries National Award for this project which was designed by Haire Landscape Consultants.

We have created a new public park for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on the site of the former Navigation Colliery, which since the demise of the colliery had become a coal washery, then a goods plant yard and more lately just levelled waste ground. As you can see from the photos below, before we commenced on site much of the area had become overgrown and the site was regularly subject to fly tipping. We have now created an area for local people to use as a place of relaxation and interest.



The park is also an important thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists along some 750 lm of new macadam paths linking to the town centre and the railway station.

The paths through the park also form an integral part of the Cynon Valley Cycle Route.

In the process of creating the park over 8000 tonnes of material have been moved to create a more interesting landform with planted mounds and a wetland area fed by an extensive drainage system.

We were required to maintain a public thoroughfare through the site at all times whilst the works were being undertaken and this was quite a challenge whilst the major earthworks were on going.





To reinforce the sites links with the past, more than a thousand reclaimed concrete railway sleepers have been set vertically to create retaining structures for planted and seeded terraces.

Reclaimed sleepers have also been used at the base of an informal amphitheatre that has been created through the ground modelling exercise.



Entry to the various levels of the amphitheatre is via gaps in Pennant Sandstone monolith features, created by using over 200 tonnes of rocks which were individually selected from a local quarry.



At the base of the amphitheatre we created a semi-circular paved area for performing artists which has since been paved with mosaics.



Phase two involved building two large in-situ concrete bridge abutments faced with Pennant Sandstone and installing a 31 metre span cycle and footbridge over the river Cynon. A temporary road was constructed to provide access for the 200 tonne crane.

This road was later removed and the stone used elsewhere on site.

The lifting operation was a complete success with the bridge fitting perfectly on its abutments.



Before we could install the bridge we were required to break out the central stone pier of a former bridge which required us to undertake quite major work within the river where access was extremely difficult.

Just before we were due to start building the bridge abutments an adjacent old retaining wall collapsed into the river following some severe local flooding. This caused a delay to the project and led to us undertaking some major additional works. This involved temporarily redirecting the river to prevent any water course contamination and also to allow work to be carried out to a depth of two meters below the river bed.

A large quantity of material was moved from the bank and the opportunity was seized to open up views of the river and visually connect with the park's tranquil wetland area. Comprehensive bank reconstruction was carried out, in part by placing large rocks and also using reclaimed Pennant Stone to rebuild walls. We were also able to continue part of the park's theme by building pieces of artwork into the new walls.



The more informal footpaths have been surfaced with stone dust whilst the main footpaths have been surfaced with macadam. Edging details include engineering brick, PCC kerbs and timber edge boards. Over 275 lm of steel handrailing has been fabricated and installed.

Scrubby vegetation and some existing trees have been cleared to improve the views along the river. Soft landscaping works have included seeding works and extensive tree planting. Other areas of the site have been deliberately left for natural regeneration. Unfortunately the site is suffering from regular and continuing vandalism, and whilst we have replaced vandalised trees, many more trees continue to be lost.





The client commissioned an artist to work concurrently on the project constructing feature entrance walls with sculptures, mosaics laid into stepping stones across the wetland and a large mosaic maze within the semi-circular performance area. We were able to form a good working relationship on site and assist the artist with many sections of his work.

In undertaking these works we have forged a good relationship with both the client and the landscape architect. Having completed all our maintenance obligations and handed the park over, we were appointed to develop the park further. This further work included constructing a lined pond within the wetland area, installation of additional fencing, redeveloping a car park and a continuation of the town hall cycle path connecting the car park to the new bridge and beyond.



Client	Contract Summary	Consultant
<p>Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Development and Regeneration Valleys Innovation Centre Navigation Park Abercynon CF45 4SN</p> <p>Contact: Mr Graham Morgan Telephone: 01443 665000 Facsimile: 01443 665014</p>	<p>Key Dates:</p> <p>Phase 1: Commencement Jan 2007 Completion May 2007 Maintained Until May 2008 Approx. Value £191,000</p> <p>Phase 2: Commencement June 2007 Completion Sept 2008 Approx. Value £345,000</p>	<p>Haire Landscape Consultants Lion House Lion Street Brecon Powys LD3 7AY</p> <p>Contact: Mr Mike Haire Telephone: 01874 610300 Facsimile: 01874 611666 E-mail: mike@haireconsult.demon.co.uk</p>

“This contract was well implemented by the contractor in trying circumstances caused by public interference (vandalism) and changes to the scheme as a result of adjustments to the budget.”

*Mike Haire, Principal – Haire Landscape Consultants*