

21. Killay Marsh

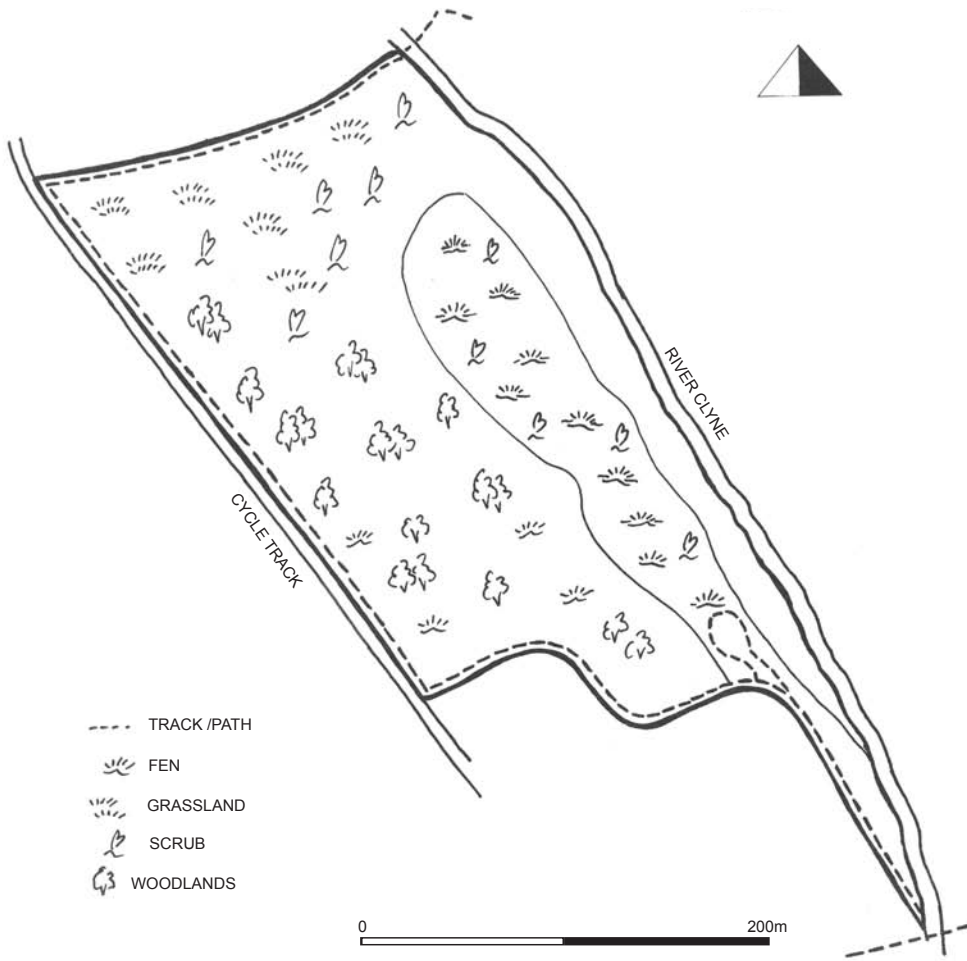
Dunvant, Swansea

Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 164 Gower. Main entrance: SS597925, Site centre: SS597927
Status	Local Nature Reserve.
Tenure	Acquired by leasehold for 25 years from Swansea City Council in June 1995, after a campaign to save it from being used as a refuse tip.
Size	10 ha (24.7 acres).
Location and Access Notes	On the west side of Dunvant. Access across green space past children's play area, over River Clyne and into the nature reserve. Level paths and boardwalks afford easy access.
Public transport	Bus services 20, 21 and 22 from Swansea Quadrant Bus Station to Killay.

Description: Fen, wet grassland and wet woodland. This urban nature reserve has a rich diversity of habitats which include marsh/marshy grassland and a large area of wet woodland, drier broadleaved woodland, dry neutral grassland, fen and swamp, and is the remnant of a much larger area of valley mire.

The reserve is important for birds with over 60 species recorded during the breeding season, including Reed Warbler and Water Rail. The site has been identified as being of great importance for reptiles and amphibians with four of the five Welsh reptiles present, and Common Newt, Palmate Newt, Frog and Toad breeding. The reserve is also an important feeding area for bats, with at least five species recorded, including Natterer's, Brown Long-eared and Noctule.

In 1993 a grant of £5,000 from Bass Breweries enabled the construction of 400 m of all weather path, providing access for the disabled along the edge of the marsh, and linking to Killay and the Swansea Bike Path. A boardwalk has also been built which provides educational and amenity access into part of the open marsh and Alder/Willow carr. This work won the Bass/The Wildlife Trusts Gold Award for 1993/94, in recognition of its contribution to enhancing and safeguarding the environment and wildlife for the local community to enjoy and appreciate.



Management Objectives: To manage and maintain the diversity of habitats for the species present, and to maintain and encourage access.

Good times to visit

Feb - Apr	Amphibians breeding
Apr - Aug	Aquatic flowers and insects, including dragonflies
Apr - Jul	Breeding birds
Jun - Sept	Feeding bats on warm evenings