

8. Pwll Waun Cynon

Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taff

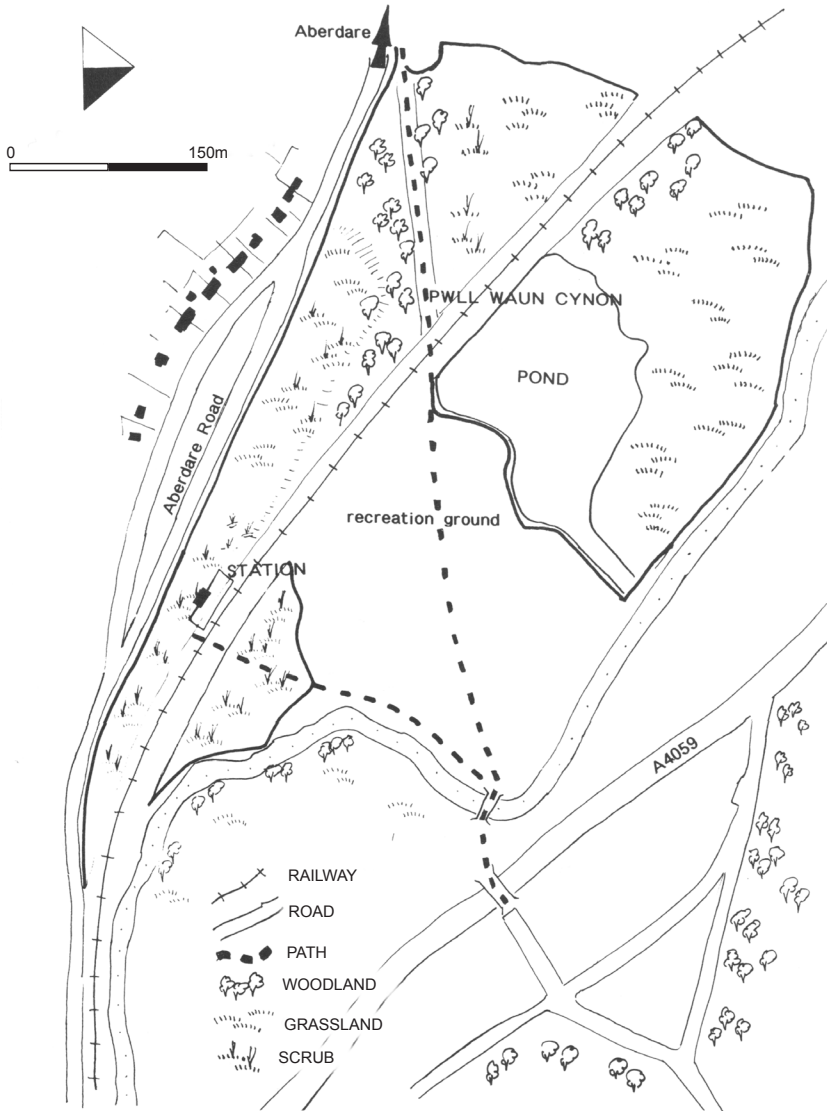
Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 166 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil. Main entrance: ST035998 Site centre: ST034997
Status	
Tenure	Lord Aberdare generously gave the reserve to the Trust in November 1986.
Size	7.2 ha (17.8 acres).
Location and Access Notes	1 km northwest of Mountain Ash. The reserve is situated between the A4059 Aberdare to Mountain Ash road and the A4224 Aberaman to Mountain Ash road, south of the river Cynon, and is bisected by a railway line. Access can be obtained from the public footpath, which crosses the reserve from the A4059, opposite the comprehensive school, to the A4224. Not accessible to wheelchairs.
Public transport	Trains from Cardiff to Abercynon South or Mountain Ash, bus numbers X5, X4 and 27 from Cardiff to Mountain Ash and Abercynon.

Description: The site has a selection of habitats including a large pond, marsh, flood meadow, acidic Oak and Ash woodland and scrub.

The reserve is situated in an area that was previously known as one of the most polluted parts of the UK in the days of the adjacent Phurnacite plant. After the plant closed in the late 1980s the pond and surrounding area recovered completely and now support an impressive selection of water birds including breeding Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, and Reed Bunting, with regular visitors including Kingfisher, and Grey Heron, with Dipper and Common Sandpiper on the River Cynon at the boundary.

There are stands of Arrowhead (7-8), a scarcity in Glamorgan, to be found in the wetter parts of the woodland.

The pond also has several uncommon plants including Fat Duckweed (6-7), Water Chickweed (7-8) Marsh Yellow-cress (6-9) Great Pond Sedge (5-6) and Common Club-rush (6-7), and provides a habitat for aquatic insects, including dragonflies such as Common Blue Damselfly (5-9) and Southern Hawker (7-9), and this site harbours the occasional Mink.



Management Objectives: To maintain the aquatic variety of the pond and surrounding area. To restore the flood plain meadow with annual cutting or grazing.

Good times to visit

- Apr - Jul Breeding birds
- Apr - Aug Wetland and meadow flowers
- May - Aug Butterflies and dragonflies