

## 28. Red Jacket Fen

Llandarcy, Neath/Port Talbot

<b>Grid References</b>	O.S. Explorer map 165 Swansea. Main entrance: SS719942, Site centre: SS722945
<b>Status</b>	
<b>Tenure</b>	Purchased in March 2004, with assistance from CCW, the Gower Ornithological Society, and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.
<b>Size</b>	3.54 ha (8.5 acres).
<b>Location and Access Notes</b>	Between Jersey Marine and Llandarcy. Parking is available at the Pant y Sais LNR car park, and access is obtained by crossing the board walk to the Tennant Canal towing path, and turning left (north) and walking towards the railway bridge. Immediately after going under the bridge, turn left up the slope, before the second bridge, and the reserve starts on your left hand side, and extends as far as the Transco Security fence. Not accessible to wheelchairs.
<b>Public transport</b>	Bus numbers X6 and 224 to Jersey Marine and then walking along the tow path.

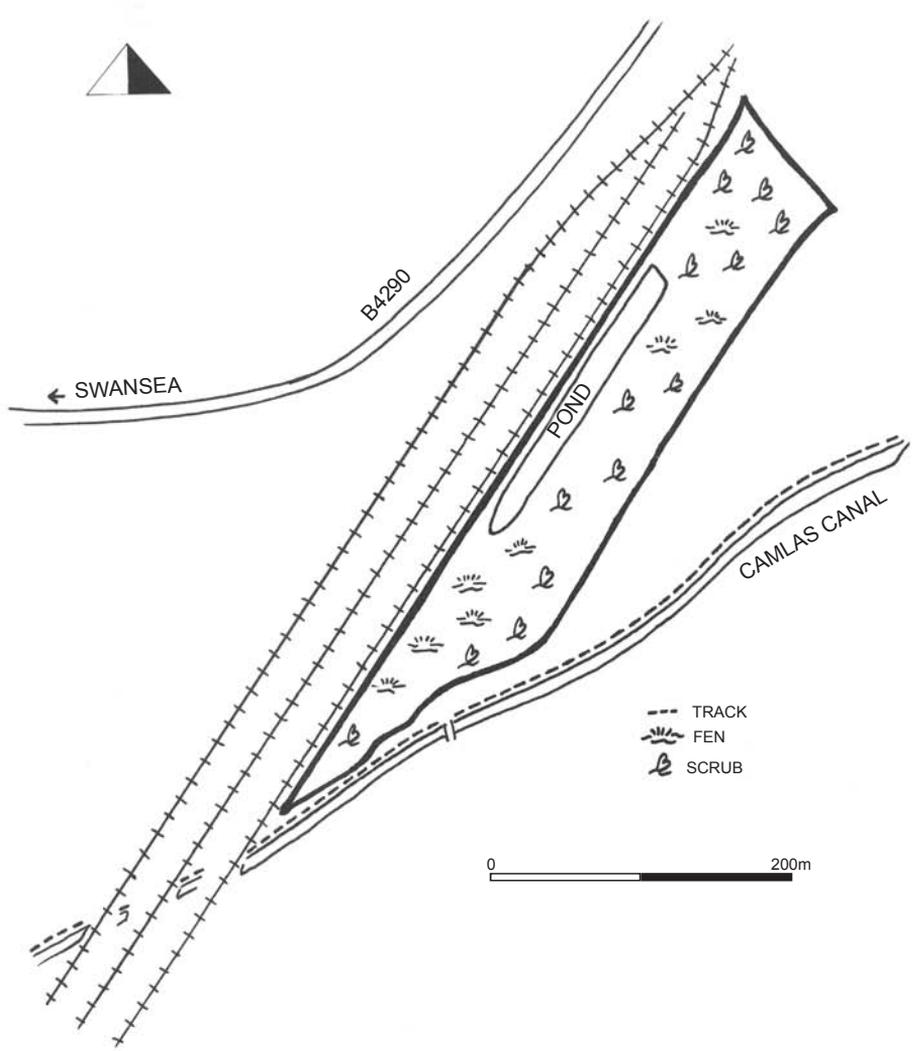
**Description:** Open water, lowland fen, and wet woodland.

This is a lowland fen situated in a narrow valley between Pant y Sais fen and the Neath Estuary. The site is bordered by railway embankments on two sides which are in the ownership of Network Rail. The Trust's property is a rectangular strip on the western side between the railway and the Tennant Canal.

The site is called Red Jacket because it was the site of a copper works making casings for armaments.

The wetland vegetation is dominated by Bulrush and provides a nesting habitat for Cetti's Warbler, Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, and Sedge Warbler in spring and summer.

Water Vole benefit from the open water and dense Bulrush to breed, and Fen Raft Spider stand and wait for prey along the waterside. There is an abundant population of dragonflies, including Common Blue Damsel (6-8) Large Red Damsel (6-7) and Common Darter (7-9).



**Management Objectives:** To manage and maintain the current diversity of habitats and so prevent the site succeeding to wet woodland.

**Good times to visit**

Feb - Apr	Breeding amphibians
May - Sept	Aquatic flowers & insects, including dragonflies
Apr - Jul	Breeding birds