

PARC NATUR PENGLAIS

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



ABERYSTWYTH

History

Penglais woods and disused quarry have long been a distinct feature of the Aberystwyth landscape. The quarry was last worked in the 1800's and provided stone used in the building of some of the town's houses. The woods formed part of the large Penglais Estate built in the 18th Century and old stone field boundaries can still be seen.

Ceredigion County Council now own the site and declared the area a Local Nature Reserve in 1995 - the first in the county. Local people continue to visit the area enjoying the shady stillness of the beeches and the boisterous, brilliantly lit seascape of the quarry. Generations of local children have enjoyed the fantasy world of the woods and quarry with their secret dens and mysterious paths.

The reserve is a good example of what can be achieved when local people and council work together to protect an area that is special to many. In the woodland, trees are being thinned and natural regeneration areas have been created to encourage new growth and provide new habitats. Boundary dry-stone walls have been repaired and footpaths improved. In recognition of this, the reserve is designated the only UNESCO Man and the Biosphere urban reserve in Wales, and it received a Prince of Wales Award in 1993.

The woodland

Throughout the woods there are mature groups of beech trees thought to have been planted by the Penglais Estate. Sessile oak, sycamore, sweet chestnut, cherry, ash and scots pine are some of the other tree species to be found, with holly providing a good understorey. Trees on the quarry edge of the woods are affected by the high winds blowing in from the sea and the exposed conditions have shaped their growth.



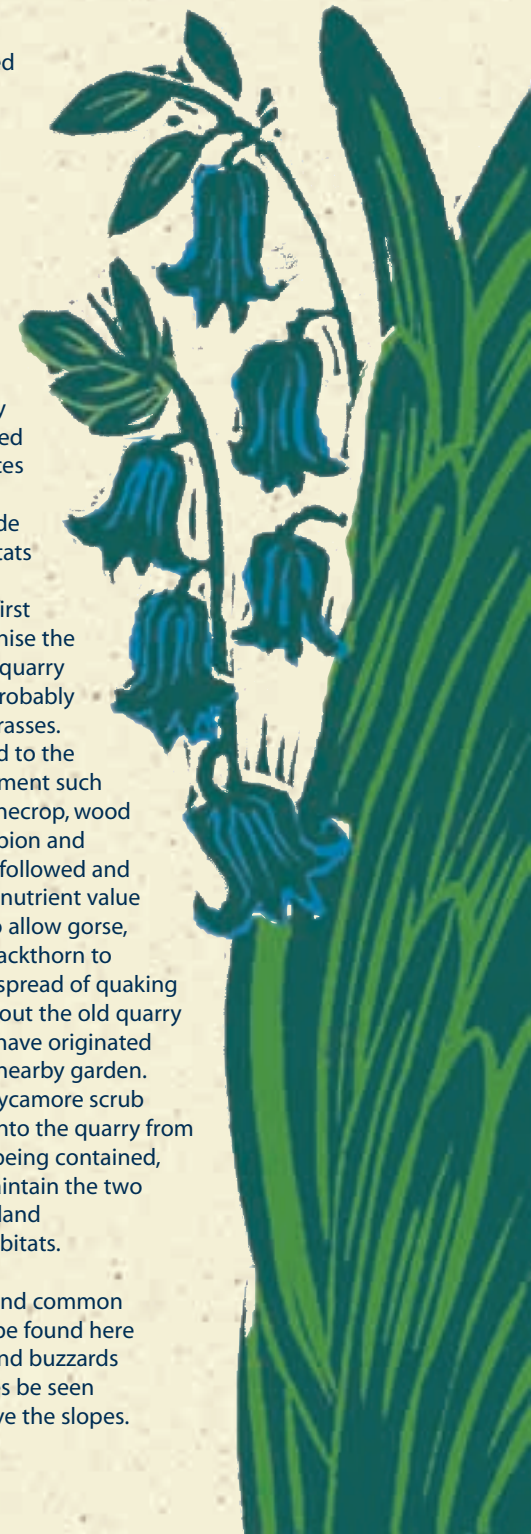
The woods are well known for a fine showing of bluebells in the spring, along with species such as stitchwort, herb robert, red campion, lesser celandine and dog rose. Lady fern, scaly male fern and common polypody also occur. Autumn sees a crop of toadstools on the rotting logs, especially oyster mushrooms. Nest boxes attract blue

tits and the occasional pied flycatcher. Blackcaps and jays can sometimes be heard and redwings visit in winter.

The old quarry

The old quarry with its exposed slopes, cliff faces and sheltered hollows provide different habitats for plants and animals. The first plants to colonise the area after the quarry closed were probably mosses and grasses. Plants adapted to the harsh environment such as English stonecrop, wood sage, sea campion and sheep's sorrel followed and increased the nutrient value of the scree to allow gorse, broom and blackthorn to develop. The spread of quaking grass throughout the old quarry is thought to have originated from a single nearby garden. The oak and sycamore scrub encroaching into the quarry from the woods is being contained, in order to maintain the two distinct woodland and quarry habitats.

Slow-worms and common lizards are to be found here and kestrels and buzzards can sometimes be seen hovering above the slopes.

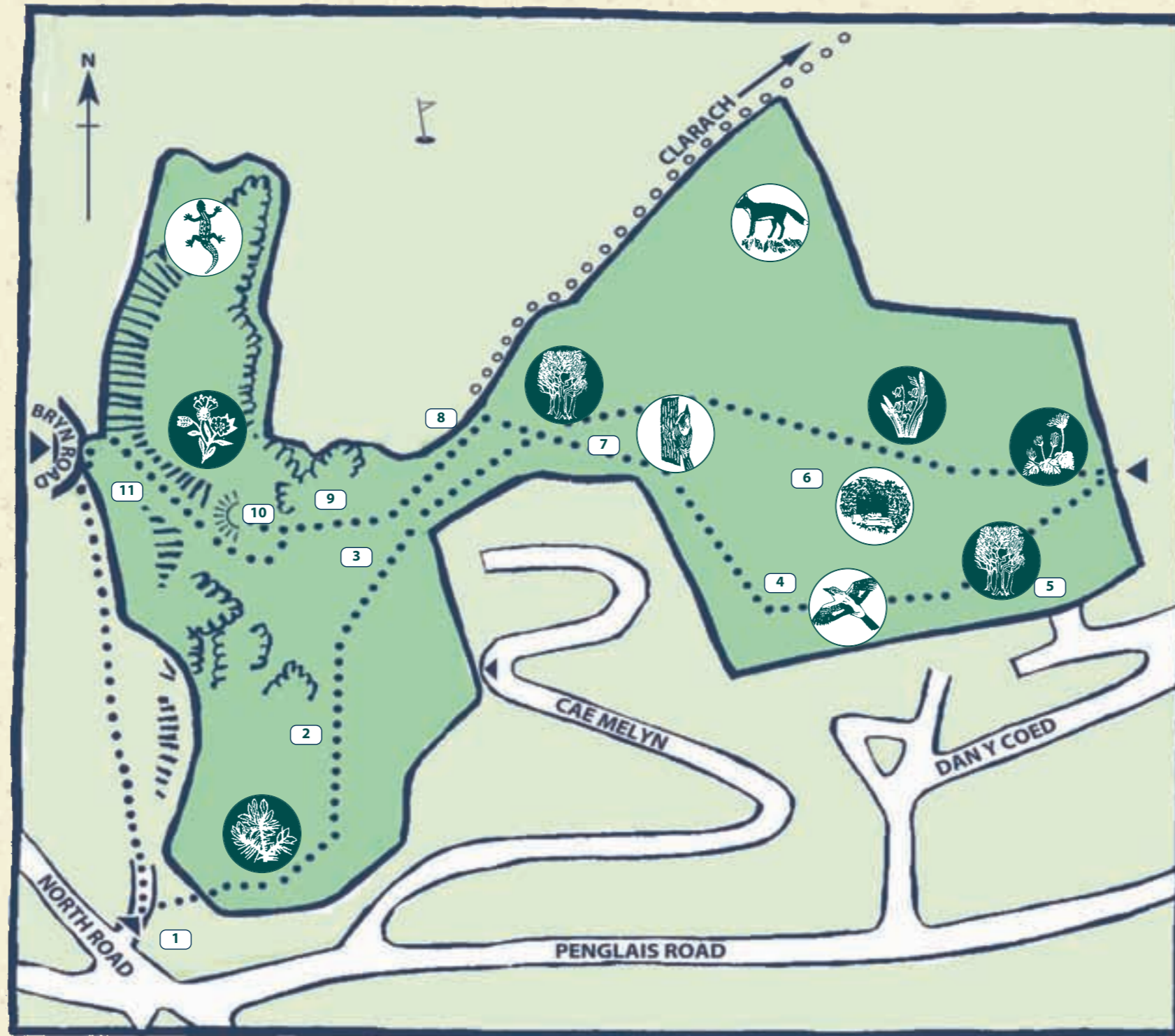


TRAIL INDEX

- 1 Main entrance to the reserve. New planting of thorn hedge and scrub species planted in 2001 to increase wildlife interest.
- 2 The strong prevailing southwesterly winds affect tree growth on this exposed edge of the woodland. Wood sage, stonecrop, bracken, gorse and broom have managed to grow on the waste slopes of the disused quarry.
- 3 Picnic clearing with extensive blackberry area at the site of the old Penglais cottage now demolished. Wych elm grows here. Good sheltered spot with the buddleia attracting many butterflies.
- 4 The woods are actively managed, and this is one of the main areas where sessile oak and beech are encouraged to regenerate. The more invasive species, sycamore, is being controlled.
- 5 Mature beech area. Beech casts dense shade allowing little light to reach the woodland floor. As a result there is little ground flora and young trees are not able to grow.
- 6 The old well was constructed in the mid 1800's and is the source of the only water in the woods for fox, badgers and birds. The pond was created as part of an artist in residency project in 1996
- 7 Thicket provides food and shelter for nesting birds. Species recorded include chiff chaff, tits, nuthatch, pied flycatcher, tree creeper and willow warbler.
- 8 Dry stone wall field boundary of the old Penglais Estate. Repaired in 1992. The public footpath alongside the golf course leads to Clarach, a popular holiday area.
- 9 In the sheltered hollows away from the strong westerly winds, more plants can survive. Oak scrub is invading from the woodland edge. The sycamore here is the first in leaf in Aberystwyth.
- 10 Aberystwyth Panorama viewpoint built in 1992. The cliff rock strata behind reveals the geological formation known as the 'Aberystwyth grits', characterised by alternating pale hard sandstone and shaly mudstone laid down approximately 435 million years ago.
- 11 Human disturbance by small playing feet and mountain bikes has affected the vegetation cover on the scree slope. On other slopes where there has been little disturbance there is one of the finest displays of sea campion in Ceredigion. Gorse is being controlled in order to encourage habitat and species diversity.

KEY ALLWEDD

- Park boundary
Flin y parc
- (Nature) Trail
Llwybr (Natur)
- Public footpath
Llwybr cyhoeddus
- Entrance
Mynedfa
- Scree slope
Llethr sgrï
- Viewpoint
Safle golygfa
- Golf course
Cwrs golf



MYNEGAI I'R LLWYBR

- 1 Y brif fynedfa i'r warchodfa. Plannwyd gwrychoedd drain a phrysgwydd newydd yn 2001 er mwyn annog bywyd gwylt.
- 2 Mae'r prif wyntoedd cryfion o'r de orllewin yn effeithio ar dyfiant y coed ar y rhan agored yma o'r goedwig. Mae chwervyls yr eithin, ewinedd y gath, rhedyn, eithin a banadl wedi llwyddo i dyfu ar lethrau gwastraff yr hên chwarel.
- 3 Lle da ar gyfer picnic wedi ei glirio a mwyar duon helaeth ar safle hen fwthyn Penglais sydd bellach wedi ei ddymchwel. Mae llwyfenni llydanddail yn tyfu yma. Lle cysgodol da ac mae'r coed mël yn denu llawer o lojnnod byw.
- 4 Caiff y goedwig ei rheoli'n gyson a dyma un o'r ardaloedd hynny lle anogir derw digoes a ffawydd i adfywio. Mae'r coed sycamor sy'n rhywogaeth fwy ymledol yn cael eu rheoli.
- 5 Ardal o goed ffawydd aeddfed. Mae'r coed ffawydd yn bwrw cysgod da ac o ganlyniad ychydig iawn o olau sy'n cyrraedd llawr y goedwig. Oherwydd hynny nid oes llawer o blanhigion ar y llawr ac ni all coed ifanc dyfu.
- 6 Adeiladwyd yr hen ffynnon yng nghanol y 1800au a dyma'r unig ffynhonnell o ddŵr yn y goedwig ar gyfer y llwynogod, y moch daear a'r adar. Crewyd y pwll bach fel rhan o brosiect artist preswyl ym 1996
- 7 Mae'r prysglwyni'n noddfa i adar nythu. Ymhlith y rhywogaethau a gofnodwyd mae piod bach, y titw, cnocellod y cnau, gwybedog, dringwyr bach a helygddywod.
- 8 Hen wal derfyn cerrig sychion Stad Penglais. Atgyweiriwyd ym 1992. Mae'r llwybr cyhoeddus ger y cwrs golf yn mynd i Glarach, man gwyliau poblogaidd.
- 9 Yn y mannau cysgodol, i ffwrdd o'r gwyntoedd cryfion o'r gorllewin, gall rhagor o blanhigion orosi. Mae prysgwydd derw ar gynnydd o ymyl y goedwig. Y sycamorwydden yma yw'r un gyntaf i ddeillio yn Aberystwyth.
- 10 Gwylfan Panorama Aberystwyth a godwyd ym 1992. Mae haenau creigiau'r clogwyn y tu ôl iddo'n dangos y tirlurfiau daearegol a elwir yn 'raeanfaen Aberystwyth', a nodweddiad gan dywodfaen caled golau a cherrig llaid sialaidd a luniwyd tua 435 o filiynau o flynyddoedd yn ôl.
- 11 Mae traed plant a beics mynydd wedi effeithio ar y llystyfiant ar y llethrau sgrï. Ar y llethrau eraill lle na fu dim styrbans gwelir y gludlys arfor ar ei orau yng Ngheredigion. Mae'r eithin yn cael ei reoli er mwyn annog amrywiaeth o gynefinoedd a rhywogaethau.



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