

# LLANBADOC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## WALK LEAFLET NO 7

### THE RESERVOIR TRAIL



PLEASE NOTE THAT AS PARTS OF THE TRAIL PASS THROUGH A CONSERVATION AREA (AND SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST) IT IS CLOSED FROM OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> UNTIL MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUALLY.

The trail is only possible with the support of Welsh Water who have made both the Eastern section (between the gates at Glascoed and the Visitor Centre) and an early section (after crossing the dam) permissive paths on their private land. The remainder of the trail is generally on public footpaths or public roads.

The trail is some 10km (6.25 miles) in length (approx. 3.5 hours); generally of moderate to hard difficulty with some steep sections (255m of ascent); and dogs are permitted provided that they are under control or on a lead on the permissive path sections.

As the trail generally comprises unmade tracks or paths (sometimes very muddy) suitable footwear should be worn and the trail is not suitable for infirm walkers nor for buggies etc.



Cardiff Corporation was granted an Order in 1958 to construct an impounding reservoir on the Sor Brook at an estimated cost of £3,139,858 and the reservoir was completed in 1966 with a surface area of 176 ha (434 acres) and a capacity of 5,300 million gallons when full. It is 1.5 miles long and 1 mile wide with an average depth of 80ft, being 135ft at its deepest point.



**START** by parking in the three tier car park above the Visitor Centre and walk down the tarmac path to the Centre.

**TURN** left in front of the reservoir, pass through the large gates and turn right onto the public road (taking care as there is no footpath at this point) passing over the dam.

**AT** the end of the dam turn left at the finger post **(1)** - see map on page 4, and walk down the track before climbing up the steps on your right into Cwm-bwrwch wood.

**AT** the top of the slope a finger post will direct you to the path on your right which you follow through the woods before descending and leaving the woods to meet the main New Inn to Coed y Paen road. **(2)**



TURN left up the hill, again taking care on the road, for approximately 100m before turning right at the finger post which directs you over a stile, past a white house on your right and along a farm track, where you fork right in front of the metal gate, before then winding your way through another wooded area.

The trail follows a fence line through Sluvad woods before leaving via a kissing gate and crosses a field (with superb views of the reservoir) where you will find another metal kissing gate after which the trail turns to the left through Pettingale wood.



Mediterranean Gull

If you turn right at this point you will come to a bird hide (3) which is particularly good on winter evenings, before sunset, from which a very large gull roost may sometimes be seen assembling for the night. If you are good at gull ID you may spot the odd Mediterranean gull, Yellow Legged gull or something rarer in amongst the 5,000 plus gull roost.



Yellow Legged Gull

HAVING turned left at the kissing gate keep to the path as this area is part of the SSSI around the reservoir and you will pass over a wooden footbridge by a large fallen tree. CONTINUE on this track with an inlet to the reservoir slowly opening up on your right, which is a breeding ground for otters.

EVENTUALLY you will leave Pettingale wood and walk down a set of steps to a kissing gate after which a finger post directs you onto a track to your right. (4) THIS becomes a sunken path between high hedgerows, where Sparrowhawks are sometimes seen, and then becomes a tarmac side road (passing Upper Trostra Farm) which brings you onto the New Inn to Glascoed road.



Sparrowhawk

A finger post on the other side of the road (5) directs you across the road and onto a side track which you follow for 200m before a yellow capped way marker post directs you right into Trostra Common.



FOLLOW this public footpath through the commons until you leave the woodland and arrive at a grassy track which is the access to the Poplars and the Lilacs.

TURN right down the track and you again come to the New Inn/Glascoed road which you cross (as directed by the finger post) into Twyn y Cryn woods. (6)

STEP over the low barrier between two boulders and carefully cross the small stream before climbing up the slope (slightly to the right) into the woods.

FOLLOW the yellow topped way marker posts to the left and then to the right, climbing to the top of the woodland where you will find yourself again being directed to your left and along the top of the woods parallel to the boundary fence.

LEAVE Twyn y Cryn via the narrow corridor to the right between the two hedge lines, and you will come out at the top of a field (7) with lovely views down the reservoir toward the Visitor Centre.





A finger post will then direct you to your left and keep to the field boundary before another way marker points you down the field, to your right. PLEASE respect the Owners privacy as you pass Yew Tree Farm on your right, walking down on the grass to the left of the drive, over the stile at the end, and you will come onto the tarmac road with the reservoir gates to your right.

A late bronze age hoard (the Glascoed Hoard) of axes, parts of spear heads, a sickle, swords and a socketed knife were found just a few hundred yards away and may now be seen in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.



Widgeon



Pochard

PASS through the gates and a finger post will then direct you to the left (8) and onto the Welsh Water permissive path and into the Conservation Area.

FOLLOW the track, passing the large pumping enclosure on your right (which lifts water from the river Usk at times of high water) , through the field.

A short diversion to your right will take you to another bird hide (9) where you might spy species such as Wigeon, Pochard, Mallard, Gooseander, Teal and Golden Eye.

This conservation area is closed from October 1<sup>st</sup> until March 1<sup>st</sup> each year in order to provide a relatively safe zone where wildfowl can start to assemble, roost and feed without disturbance from users.



Canada Geese

Some of these species over winter here depending on the severity of conditions on the continent and Canada geese can often be seen resting here before carrying on with their migration in their distinctive V shaped flight formation.

THE trail continues through flat open fields (please keep to the mown track) where a variety of orchids including Common Spotted and Southern Marsh as well as hay meadow species such as Yellow Rattle and Red Bartsia may be seen. Adders Tongue fern is very prevalent but difficult to find due to its small size.



Southern Marsh Orchid



Adders Tongue



WOODLAKE PARK Golf Club may be seen on your left before you enter Pentre-waun woods (10) through a 4ft/10ft gate.

THE trail meanders through the woods with occasional views of the water and wooden rest seats before leaving through another gate. (11)

TURN right and cross the open land and you will arrive at the new Water Sports Centre and on to the Visitor Centre for some well earned refreshments in the upstairs Café (or “grab and go” in the shop if the café is closed).

THE zig zag tarmac path, passing the PINK PIKE takes you up the hill and back to the car park.

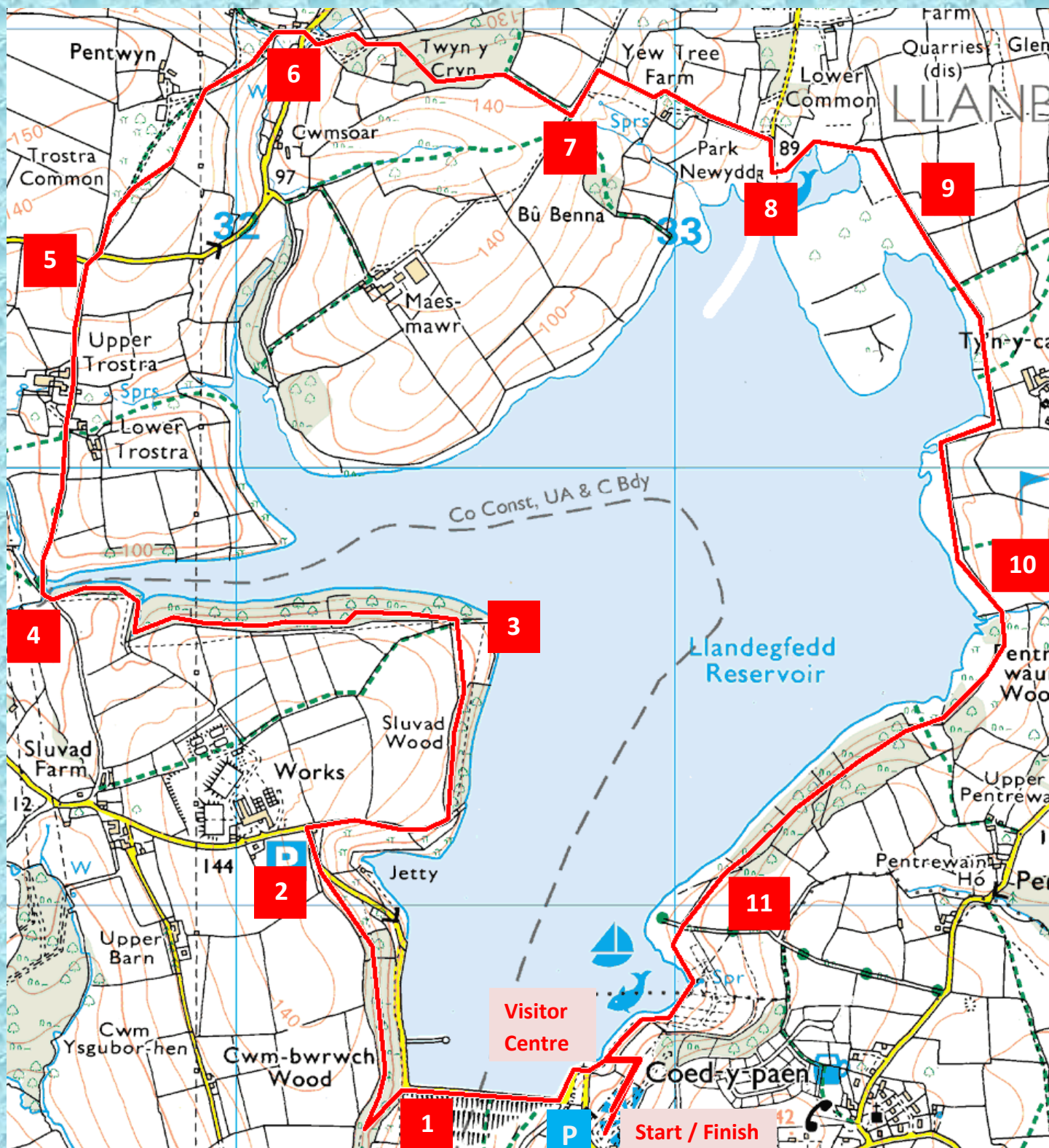




# LLANBADOC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## WALK LEAFLET NO 7

### THE RESERVOIR TRAIL



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright . Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings

Details of other walks may be found on the Llanbadoc Community Council website :- [www.llanbadoc.org](http://www.llanbadoc.org)  
or Monmouthshire County Council :- [www.visitmonmouthshire.com](http://www.visitmonmouthshire.com)