



HISTORY

Allt-Yr-Yn was legally designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by Newport Council in 1994. It occupies the 32 acre site of the former Allt-Yr-Yn House and Lido, and an old stone quarry. It is now maintained as a mosaic of inter-related wildlife habitats which support numerous plant, mammal, invertebrate and fungus species.



CONSERVATION

The Meadow and the Ancient Woodland are the most important areas for nature conservation.

They both support very many native species, but are also very fragile habitats which can easily be lost or damaged. In recognition of the importance of sites such as these they are now included in the UK National Habitat Action Plan



Practical ecological management is carried out in partnership by Wildlife in Newport Group (WING) and Newport City Council's Countryside & Conservation Services in ways which try to balance the needs of nature conservation with recreation and education uses.

The site benefits from the financial support and expert advice of the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission and the practical work of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers in partnership with New Deal.

If you require any further information please call (01633) 232144, or e-mail: countryside@newport.gov.uk



ACCESS

The Reserve is nearly always open to visitors. However, the needs of safety or maintenance mean that access is restricted sometimes. Visitors are asked to observe any notices posted on the site.

Please respect all fences and cross them only by means of the stiles and gates provided. Fences protect the more sensitive habitats and enable delicate plants to flourish.

SAFETY

A number of paths and bridleways are provided around the Reserve but please take care and respect other users when walking or riding anywhere on site. Whether you are following a prepared path or not, surfaces may be uneven and muddy, and slips and trips may occur.



Ponds can be dangerous places and care should always be taken when near them, especially with children.

Please keep all dogs on a lead, most especially when schools are on site. For health and safety reasons please don't leave any dog fouling behind

In the interest of safety and sensitive wildlife, swimming, camping, leaving litter, lighting of fires, motor vehicles, fishing or any other disturbance or collecting of plants or animals are not permitted in the Reserve. Horse riding is allowed only on the permissive bridleways.



Please take all litter home with you



Allt-Yr-Yn Local Nature Reserve



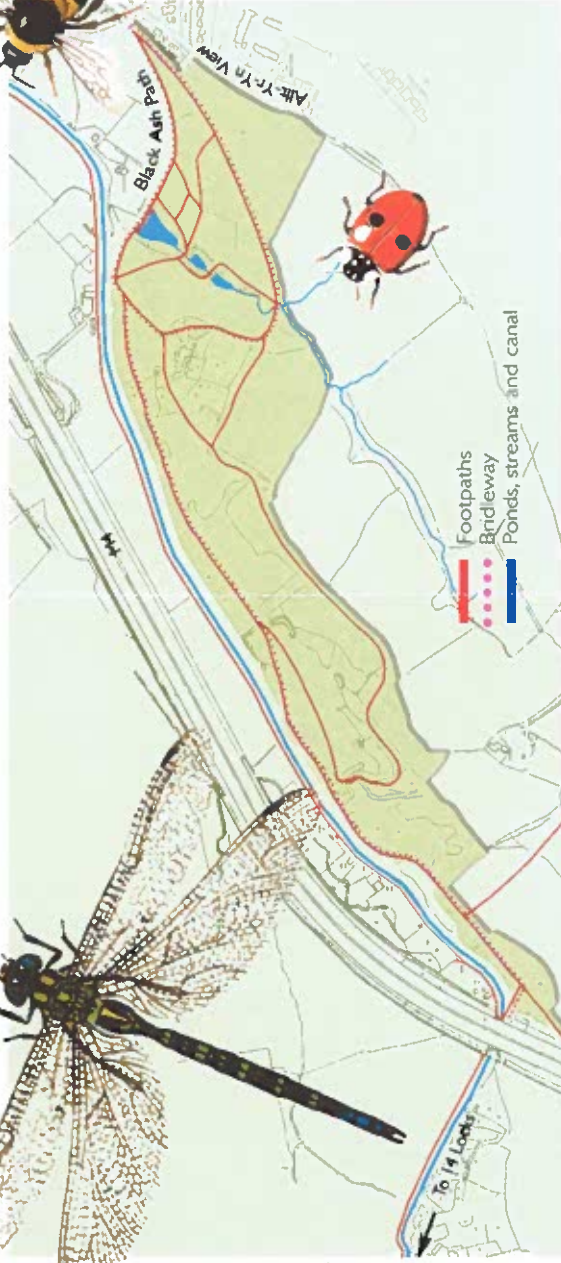
A gateway to the countryside, nature and wildlife less than a mile from the town centre



Allt-Yr-Yn Nature Reserve Newport

HOW TO GET THERE

Walkers and horse riders may use one of the three entrances at the top of Black Ash Path, where it meets Allt-Yr-Yn View; at the bottom of Black Ash Path next to the canal; at the end of Brickyard Lane near junction 27 of the M4 at Highcross. Please leave cars on the public highway at Allt-Yr-Yn View.



It is managed in the traditional way to maintain a low fertility soil which will support many species of wildflowers such as early purple orchid and hay rattle, as well as 14 different grasses including meadow foxtail and yorkshire fog. These in turn attract many different grassland butterflies, moths and amphibians to the area.

BIODIVERSITY INTEREST

The name "Allt-Yr-Yn" means "Hillside of Ash Trees", the commonest local trees. You will also see lots of native oak, birch, cherry and alder, with the smaller hazel, elder and hawthorn beneath. There are also some introduced horse chestnut and sycamore trees.

A recent survey found 47 species of birds, 7 mammal species, amphibians such as frogs and newts, and reptiles such as grass snakes.

The 5 acre meadow is very ancient, and may never have been ploughed or fertilised.



The three ponds and the marsh are designed to support local wildlife and were created from an open-air swimming pool and a natural stream. Water plants now established include yellow flag iris, water mint, and fool's water cress. The open water is used by kingfishers, water fowl, and dragonflies, whilst at dusk bats hunt for insects above the surface.

Some areas need well-planned management if they are to continue supporting wildlife. In recent years, Wildlife in Newport Group (WING) volunteers have cleared scrub and undergrowth so that bluebells and other flower communities will regenerate in one woodland, and planted new native trees in another. Plants have been established in the ponds, and a long-term program is underway to remove a few invasive alien species.

Other interesting plants which may be seen include enchanter's nightshade, wood anemone, adder's tongue fern, yellow pimpernel and bird's foot trefoil.

Colourful mushrooms often appear overnight. Fly agaric, judas' ear, shaggy ink cap,



earth star and scarlet wax cap have been seen in the past. Never attempt to pick or handle them as some are deadly, and accurate identification can be difficult.

Among resident insects are the six spot burnet moth, the emperor dragonfly, purple hairstreak and common blue butterflies.

Two wooded areas in the Reserve have been identified as Ancient Woodland. Here the same land has been continuously covered with native trees without any mass felling for centuries, creating an environment more complex than in other woods. The soil has probably never been ploughed or fertilised, and in spring supports masses of bluebells, primroses and wood anemone, as well as a great concentration of specialised insects and fungi.

