



The Wildlife Centre of Wales Canolfan Byd Natur Cymru

www.rhayader.co.uk

RSPB Carn gafallt nature reserve

Wildlife

This RSPB reserve covers approximately 386 hectares of upland woodland, moorland and grassland. The woodland and moorland walks explore the site amidst exciting scenery. In spring, the oak woodlands are full of pied flycatchers, redstarts and wood warblers. There are also good numbers of whinchats, stonechats, skylarks and meadow pipits across the heathland of Carn gafallt Common. You can see red kites, buzzards and ravens throughout the year.

The site is special because it has some internationally important examples of upland habitats and contains nationally and regionally scarce plant and invertebrate species. It is protected under UK and EC legislation. After near extinction in Britain, the polecat, along with the red kite, found sanctuary in the uplands of Wales from relentless persecution by humans.

Today, due to more enlightened attitudes to wildlife, polecats, red kites, badgers and otters are among the once rare wildlife that is now a common sight on the reserve and in the surrounding countryside.

Myth and legend

The reserve has a number of archaeological features dating back 5,000 years. These include three Bronze Age burial cairns which are associated with one of the oldest Welsh folk tales from the ninth century. The legend is that while chasing a wild boar, the hunting hound named Cafallt left a paw print in a rock. Cafallt belonged to the legendary Celtic warrior, Arthur. This nature reserve is named after the main rocky hill here, called Carn gafallt. Translated into English, Carn gafallt means 'the rock of Cafallt' or the rock of Arthur's dog, as some people call it.



Visiting

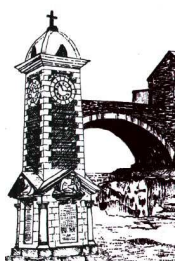
Admission is free and the reserve is open at all times. Access is via a variety of rights of way. Dogs should be on leads at all times. Please stay on the marked paths, as elsewhere on the reserve there are hazards including ravines, cliffs, bogs and rock terrain. Some routes are quite steep in parts and sturdy footwear is recommended.

How to get there

The main access point for the reserve is at Elan Village. There is an RSPB information sign at the eastern end of the village where the village road enters woodland at a cattle grid. Elan Village is just off the B4518 approximately 5 km east of the town of Rhayader, which straddles the A470 and A44, in central Wales.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Tel: 01654 700222 Web: www.rspb.org.uk/wales



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