



This page helps you find out more about Howardian Local Nature Reserve.

Useful information is set out under the following headings:

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- What You Said
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Summary

The Local Reserve is situated in the lower Rhymney valley, a wildlife oasis of woodland, wildflower meadow, ponds and reedbeds.

Remarkably, the reserve was a refuse tip in the early 1970's. Although a large proportion of the site had been used as a landfill site, much of the relict estuarine vegetation still exists and forms a major feature within the Reserve. Since then the Council has worked with local groups to create the wildlife haven that can be enjoyed today.

An enthusiastic group of local residents formed a Friends' Group in 1989 who work with the Council to further improve the reserve. A good network of paths now weave between the great variety of habitats that are packed with interesting flora and fauna.

Interesting plants include bee, southern and common spotted, southern marsh orchids, Broomrape, Grass leaved vetchling, Celery leaved buttercup etc.

Features of Interest

History

In the early 1970's the site was a disused domestic rubbish tip. However, the Council has worked with local groups to transform the site into a wildlife haven. Works continue today to improve the reserve for its wildlife interest and public enjoyment.





Countryside on your doorstep

Nature

Although the reserve is squeezed into a compact urban setting, it is home to a surprising variety of wildlife. Over 500 individual species have been recorded, reflecting the contrasting habitats contained within the site. In recognition of the sites' value for wildlife, it was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1981. Some of the main wildlife features are listed below.

Water features

A pond, reedbed and scrape provide different water-based habitats that attract different species of flora and fauna. Look out for Heron, Kingfisher, together with Sedge Warblers and Snipe in the reedbeds. Grass Snakes, Frogs and Toads also benefit from these habitats.

Meadows & grassland

The open areas contain interesting plant species such as Bee Orchid and varieties of Buttercup. However, this habitat is also great for insects, slow worms and butterflies.

Woodland

Over 25,000 trees have been planted to compliment the three small copses originally on the site. This has resulted in a good mix of woodland and emerging scrub - ideal nesting conditions for many birds.

Stream & Waterfall

A small length of stream passes through the reserve. It provides another feature of interest as it has carved a narrow channel through the clay ground and includes a small waterfall in the woodland area.

Special Events

Friends of Howardian LNR regularly hold work days to carry out maintenance work which people can volunteer to participate in. There are also occasional guided walks. Further details can be obtained from the [Parks Website](#).

Access Within

A comprehensive network of paths run throughout the Reserve.

Paths are a mixture of stonedust or grassed/bare ground.

Some sections can be narrow and involve short gradients.





Howardian LNR cont...

Countryside on your doorstep

Getting There

By foot - There are three entrances to the Reserve, one on Hammond Way and two on Ipswich Road.

By bus - The Reserve is within easy walking distance of bus routes along Colchester Avenue and Newport Road. Details of bus routes can be found at www.cardiffbus.com

By train - There is no railway station close to the Reserve. However, Cardiff Central Station is next to the Central bus station where connections can be made with local bus routes. Details of train services can be found at www.nationalrail.co.uk

By car - All three entrances to the Reserve have adjacent on-street parking.

Nearby

Howardian LNR is located next to the David Lloyd Leisure Centre close to Newport Road where there are a wide range of leisure and retail facilities.

The Howardian Education Centre is adjacent to the site.

Howardian LNR is also located close to other open spaces:

Rhymney Trail

Cardiff Council has started to develop a footpath and cycle trail alongside the River Rhymney. It is now possible to start on the foreshore and follow the route up to Llanederyn village.

Roath Mill Gardens and Waterloo Gardens

Roath Mill Gardens and Waterloo Gardens are two fine examples of Edwardian parks.

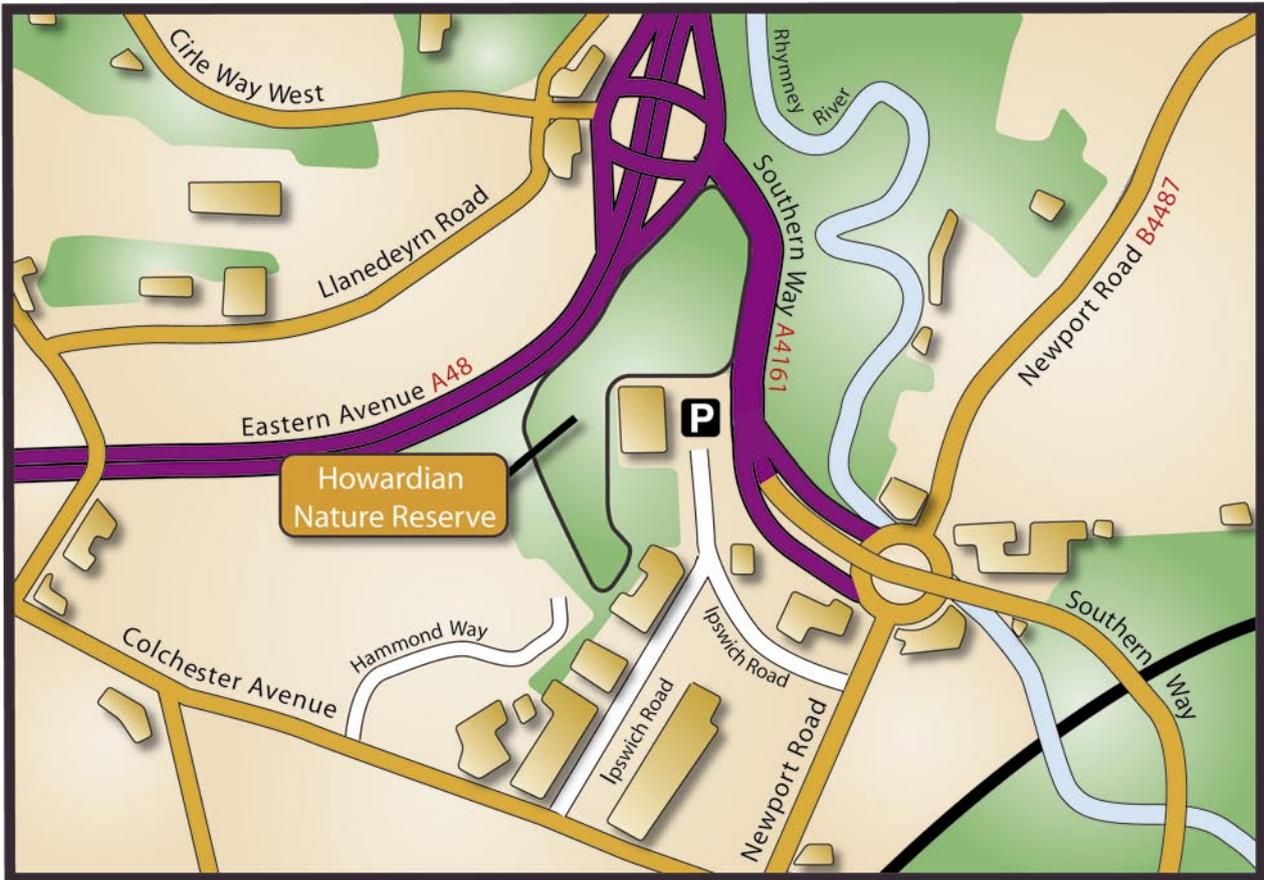
What You Said

"It is so beautiful and so unexpected the other side of the noisy traffic of Newport Road"





Howardian LNR cont...



Information and Contacts

Howardian LNR is owned by Cardiff County Council and managed by the Parks Section. There is also a Friends Group at the Reserve. Further information about the Reserve and any current events can be obtained from the [Parks Website](#).

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