

23A. Llyn Fach

Rhigos Road, Neath Port Talbot

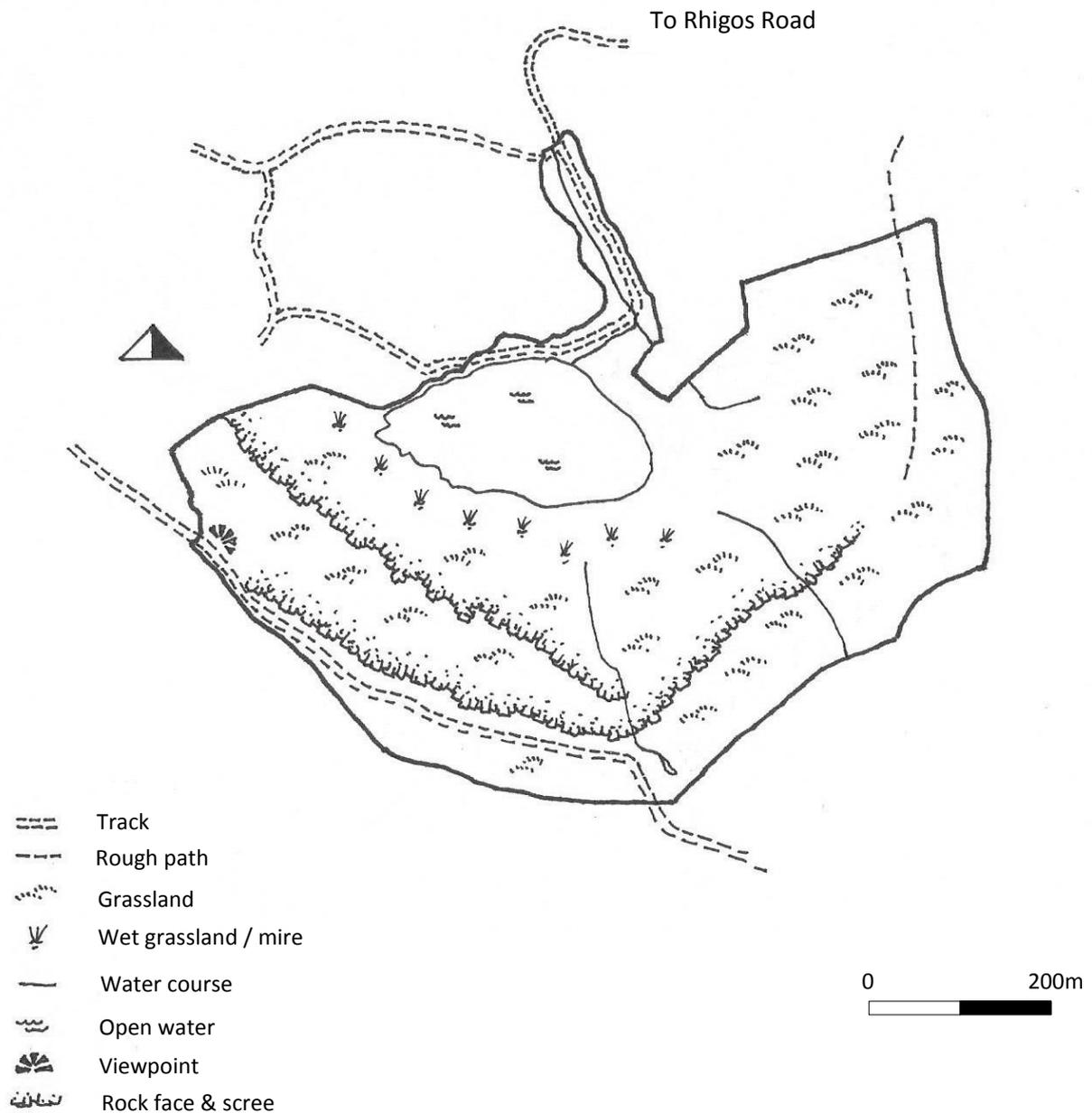
Grid References	Grid References: OS Explorer Map 166. Main Entrances: SN906040, SN904038. Site Centre: SN906036
Status	Part of the Craig y Llyn SSSI. Also includes part of the Cwm Gwrelych and Nant Llyn Fach Streams SSSI.
Tenure	Leased for 25 years from July 2017 from Natural Resources Wales
Size	35 ha (86 acres)
Location and Access Notes	Llyn Fach is around 5km south-west of Hirwaun. The reserve is approx. 3km walk along forestry tracks from Cwm-hwnt or the lookout point parking on Rhigos Road, A4061. The Coed Morgannwg Way can be used to access the cliff tops. No wheelchair access and a limited network of paths.
Public Transport	The village of Rhigos is served by Stagecoach Route 8 from Aberdare.

Description: The nature reserve features a large nutrient-poor glacial lake, overlooked by dramatic north-east facing cliffs and scree, dotted with rowan trees. The damp and shady outcrops, ledges and crevices provide undisturbed habitat for montane species such as Wilson's Filmy Fern and Fir Clubmoss, and other interesting species such as Cowberry and Beech Fern.

Great Woodrush and Bilberry flourish on the steep slopes and ledges, and a mosaic of recovering acid grassland, marshy grassland, heathland and bog can be found in the extensive clearfelled area of former forestry to the east of the lake.

The lake supports Water Lobelia in its southernmost British location, the regionally rare Floating-leaved Bur-reed, and extensive beds of Broad-leaved Pondweed and Water Horsetail. The lake is home to a rich variety of dragonflies and damselflies, provides breeding habitat for Common Frog, Toad and Palmate Newt, and has one of the last remaining populations of Water Vole in Glamorgan. Otter are frequent visitors, and Trout can often be observed leaping from the water. Coot, Little Grebe and Heron are sometimes seen on the water or nesting in the vegetated margins.

A rich variety birds of prey can be spotted all year round, and Nightjar, Snipe, Cuckoo and Crossbill are known to utilise the clearfell and surrounding conifers. Ring Ouzel and Fieldfare are regular autumn visitors, when large flocks of migrating birds can also be seen stopping off to feed at the lake.



Management objectives: to maintain and enhance the diversity of the open habitats including the removal of regenerating conifer and recovering clearfell areas. To protect the scarce species such as Water Lobelia and Water Vole in the wetland areas.

Good times to visit	
May-Jul	Breeding birds, dragonflies and damselflies
Sept-Nov	Migrating birds
Dec-Feb	Geological features, great views