



The Wildlife Centre of Wales Canolfan Byd Natur Cymru

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Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Gilfach Nature Reserve (SN965 717 – Nature Discovery Centre)

In the lovely Marteg valley with glorious views, Gilfach is a traditional hill farm, managed organically and for the benefit of wildlife. Many of its meadows are unimproved, peppered with anthills and rich in ancient grassland flora such as mountain pansy, eyebright, and adders-tongue fern. Butterflies and other invertebrates abound and 55 species of breeding bird have been recorded, including the summer visitors redstart and pied flycatcher. The rocky River Marteg bubbles down through the reserve, tumbling over the waterfall and down to its confluence with the River Wye. You may well see a dipper or perhaps the blue flash of a kingfisher and if you are very lucky indeed, a glimpse of an otter.

A way-marked nature trail guides people round the reserve, which takes a leisurely 1½ hours. The shorter Oakwood Trail takes a loop from the Nature Discovery Centre. There are picnic benches at Marteg Bridge and the Nature Discovery Centre, or just bring a blanket and sit by the river! The Wye Valley Walk and the Monk's Trod also pass through the reserve.

Please keep your dog on a lead at all times to limit disturbance to wildlife and farm animals.



Directions:

Gilfach nature reserve is 3 miles north of Rhayader, just off the A470 to the right. Park here at Marteg Bridge and begin the trail, or carry on up the B road for ½ mile, turning right down the narrow lane signposted to the Nature Discovery Centre (just before the cattle grid). The Centre with its exhibitions and light refreshments is manned by volunteers and is generally open at weekends and school holidays from Easter to September.

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