

# WALKING TRAILS



## WHICH TRAIL IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

We recommend that visitors take a map from the visitor centre before setting out into the forest, and that suitable footwear should be worn, as the trails have rough, uneven surfaces

### RESERVOIR TRAIL

**4KM / 2.5 MILES**

This short walk takes you through the eastern end of the forest. After a gentle climb up the main forest road, you turn through an area of mature spruce trees and out onto the edge of Pendinas Reservoir. Please be aware that this tranquil reservoir provides drinking water to the surrounding area and is very cold, so please stay out!  
On a clear day, you will have excellent views towards Moel Famau and the surrounding countryside. A descent through Larch Bank brings you back to the visitor centre and café.  
**You may see...** dragonflies hovering above the wildlife ponds.  
**You may hear...** the screech of a jay as he flies from treetop to treetop.  
**Can you spot...** common lizards basking on the open heathland by the reservoir?

### BLACK GROUSE TRAIL

**3.5 KM / 2 MILES**

This walk takes you through part of the upland spruce plantation and out on the contrasting landscape of the Ruabon moors. From the bird hide, you have extensive views over Esclusham Mountain and the Ruabon site of special scientific interest. Part of the moor is managed specifically for the conservation of black grouse. Why not book a walk with the RSPB to watch the magnificent black grouse lekking, which is when the male grouse show their magnificent tail feather displays to the hens (females). The final part of the walk takes you around the tranquil Pendinas Reservoir before dropping down to the visitor centre and café.  
**You may see...** the steely grey silhouette of a male hen harrier swooping over the moor.  
**You may hear...** the lekking of the male black grouse on Ruabon moor.  
**Can you spot...** a speckled wood butterfly weaving its way along the grassy edge of the forest road?

### LLANDEGLA FOREST TRAIL

**5 KM / 3 MILES**

This is a tour through the different forest habitats at Coed Llandegla. First, you are in the upland spruce plantation, which is a mixture of mature tall spruce and open areas known as clear fells. These areas are not left open for long and are soon replanted with conifers to provide a sustainable timber crop for future generations. We also plant some broadleaved trees to create long-term wildlife corridors. The route then passes along the heather rides. These are areas of open heathland within the forest that are managed for wildlife. You then descend to Larch Bank. This part of the forest is managed as continuous-cover forest. You will not see any clear fells here: only well-thinned mature trees among small groups of younger mixed species, which will one day become the overstorey. The trail finishes at the visitor centre and café.  
**You may see...** pipistrelle bats darting along the forest edge on a summer's evening.  
**You may hear...** the distinctive call of a chiffchaff singing in the conifers.  
**Can you spot...** five different tree species on Larch Bank?

### MOORLAND VIEW TRAIL

**11 KM / 7 MILES**

This 2½-hour walk follows the start of the Llandegla Forest trail by climbing to the spruce plantation and then continues to the western end of the forest. You will see spruce trees of all ages from newly planted to mature and ready for felling. This cycle of clear felling and replanting provides a perfect habitat for one of our more elusive summer visitors: the nightjar. After crossing Offa's Dyke footpath, you head to the edge of the Ruabon SSSI. Part of this moorland is within the forest boundary and is managed for black grouse. Thin strips are cut in the moorland vegetation to provide fresh buds and shoots for the grouse to feed on. The trail continues through areas of thinned spruce trees. The thinning allows more light to reach the forest floor which encourages ground flora to flourish and provide a food source for many insects and birds.  
**You may see...** flocks of crossbills feeding on larch and spruce cones in the treetops.  
**You may hear...** churring male nightjars trying to attract a mate.  
**Can you spot...** the UK's smallest bird, the goldcrest, darting among the spruce trees?

### Pendinas Reservoir

- Hafren Dyfrdwy, a partner at Coed Llandegla with UPM Tittill and Oneplanet Adventure, owns the reservoir and its surrounding path.
- Hafren Dyfrdwy provides drinking water to a population of over 260,000 in North East Wales around Wrexham and West Cheshire around Chester. Pendinas Reservoir can hold 283 million litres of water, which is enough to supply a town the size of Wrexham for about 35 days. Pendinas and two smaller, local reservoirs collect water from the surrounding hills, which is then treated at the nearby Pendinas Water Treatment Works to remove all impurities, before the water is supplied to customers!
- The reservoir is fed by a leete – a Victorian-built channel that was cut through the forest to bring water from the surrounding hills.
- The water's edge provides a good breeding habitat for the common sandpiper.



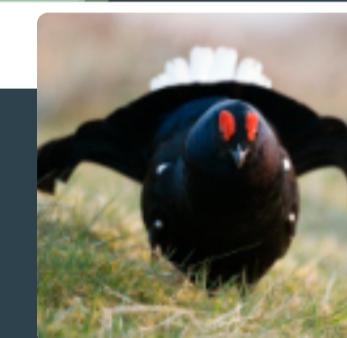
### Timber Harvesting

- Most timber is cut and processed using a purpose-built harvesting machine.
- Each machine can cut and process up to 120 tonnes of wood per day.
- Timber products include pulp for papermaking, fencing materials and construction-grade timber.
- Timber harvesting provides income to enable future forest management and also supports local industry (machinery operators, timber hauliers and sawmills).
- The wildlife benefits include deadwood left to provide insect habitats and clear fells providing a perfect breeding



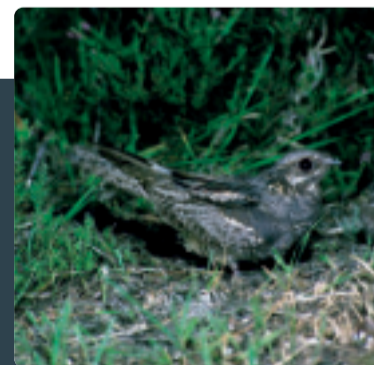
### Black Grouse

- There are fewer than 6500 mating males left in UK.
- 50% of the Welsh lekking population can be found on Llandegla and Ruabon moor.
- Males have an impressive mating display known as lekking.
- Parts of the forest are actively managed in partnership with the RSPB for the conservation of black grouse. Please see [www.blackgrouse.info/recovery/wales.htm](http://www.blackgrouse.info/recovery/wales.htm).



### Nightjar

- It is a rare summer migrant from Africa.
- Clear fells are ideal breeding habitats.
- They are superbly camouflaged for protection against predators.
- They are active at dawn and dusk, and feed on insects and moths.
- The males' courtship display includes aerial acrobatics and a churring song of over 1900 notes per minute.



### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you get into difficulty on the trail look out for the individually numbered waymarker posts. Report your location to the emergency services or to the Visitor Centre.  
Access to the Visitor Centre from the minor road (off the A525 Wrexham to Ruthin Road) is at Grid Reference SJ 240 524.  
In case of emergency call 999. Nearest A&E Hospital facilities: Wrexham Maelor Hospital, LL13 7TD. Tel: 01978 291100.

### RESERVOIR SAFETY

- Please help us to keep you safe and the reservoir water as clean as possible by following a few simple rules:
- **No swimming** – Swimming at Pendinas is very dangerous, the water gets very cold, there are underwater obstacles and an undercurrent is present which can change without notice. Going into the water also increases the risk of water contamination.
  - **Keep animals out of the water** – Animals can contaminate the water and it can also be dangerous for them.
  - **No littering or fouling** – Please take home all your rubbish and help us keep the forest and reservoir as clean and tidy as possible and reduce the risk of water pollution.
  - **No fires** – Fire poses a significant risk to you and the environment so please do not light fires.
  - **Please keep to the paths provided** – Thousands of walkers and cyclists enjoy Coed Llandegla each year but this can cause significant damage to the embankments that contain the reservoir if people do not keep to the paths provided. By keeping to the paths provided, you help ensure the safety of the structures and allow its continued use in the future while also reducing disturbance to wildlife.

Visitor Centre

Direction of Travel

- Reservoir Trail
- Llandegla Forest Trail
- Black Grouse Trail
- Moorland View Trail
- Forest Road
- Public Highway
- Viewpoint
- Waymarker Number
- Visitor Centre
- Main Car Park

