

*Countryside on your doorstep*



*Cardiff Bay Wetlands*

## **This page helps you find out more about the Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve.**

Useful information is set out under the following headings:

- Summary
- Features of interest
- Facilities
- Access
- Nearby
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### **Summary**

Created in 2002, Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve is already a great centre for wildlife. The wetlands were created when the barrage was completed and the previous saline mudflats were transformed into freshwater marshland and a 400 acre lake.

Today the reserve is an important site for over-wintering and breeding birds. It is very popular with birdwatchers who come to see the rare birds. It is also a good place to come for the casual visitor to enjoy wildlife and the views across the Bay. Access is free.

### **Features of Interest**

#### **History**

The reserve has been in existence since 2002 when the barrage was completed. It was designed to compensate in part for the loss of the mudflats which had been submerged by the rising water levels. Some of the site lies within the Pierhead Conservation Area which was created to protect the surrounding listed buildings on Windsor Esplanade.

#### **Nature**

There is a purpose built reën to prevent access to the bulk of the reserve from the mainland. This protects nesting birds from any predators and disturbances from humans. The newly created 400 acre freshwater lake has attracted many birds, most of which can be found within the Wetlands Reserve including Herons,





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Kingfishers and Grebes.

### Recreation

There is a network of paths around the edge of the wetland area. This includes a boardwalk which stretches out over the lake and is a popular place for bird watching.

### Special Events

Special events include guided tours and educational visits. See the [Parks website](#) and [Harbour Authority Website](#) for information about current events.

### Wetlands

The reserve consists of a former salt marsh and a series of wetlands constructed at variable depths along with floating timber structures that serve as safe breeding areas for the birds. To reduce erosion the wetland is protected by an underwater bund to prevent wave erosion and a boom to keep debris out. This also serves to contain a large open water section of the reserve which is attractive to fish eating birds and gulls.

### Ongoing

Work is continuing on the Wetlands Reserve to expand and improve upon its potential for wildlife which includes increasing the amount and character of the wetland scrapes providing a greater diversity and accessibility for fish and invertebrates and thus attract more birds to the site.

### Views

There are some good views from the boardwalk back over the reserve and the buildings of the bay and towards Penarth Headland and Cardiff Bay Barrage.

### Facilities

There are facilities within the reserve for Pond Dipping which are well used by local schools as an educational resource.

Birdwatching is the most popular hobby on the reserve and facilities for this include the provision of viewing platforms and the boardwalk.

### Access Within

A comprehensive network of generally flat, hard surfaced paths run around the edge of the wetland area.





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### Getting There

**By foot** - Paths link up with the St David's Hotel car park, Windsor Esplanade and on to Hamadryad Park which has links with Butetown. The reserve is only a five minute walk from the heart of the Cardiff Bay waterfront.

**By bus** - There are numerous bus stops near to the reserve including Windsor Terrace, Stuart Street and Dudley Street. Details of bus routes and services can be found at [www.cardiffbus.co.uk](http://www.cardiffbus.co.uk)

**By train** - Cardiff Bay Station is located approximately 800 metres from the reserve. It is linked to Cardiff Central Station. Details of train services can be found at [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**By car** - There are car parks near the reserve for the St David's Hotel and another near to Hamadryad Park. Some parking on surrounding residential streets is available for the public whilst some is residents only.

### Nearby

Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve is located near to the centre of the Cardiff Bay waterfront developments. It is therefore within walking distance of Mermaids Quay shopping area, Techniquet, St David's Hotel the Wales Millennium Centre and a wide range of restaurants/bars.

Access is also good to other open spaces:

#### Hamdryad Park

A well paved green space that is popular with local residents.

#### The Marl

There are sports pitches and a basketball court here, as well as a playground.

#### Grangemore Park

This park is open grassland on a small hill with a 'Silent Links' sculpture on the top.

### What You Said

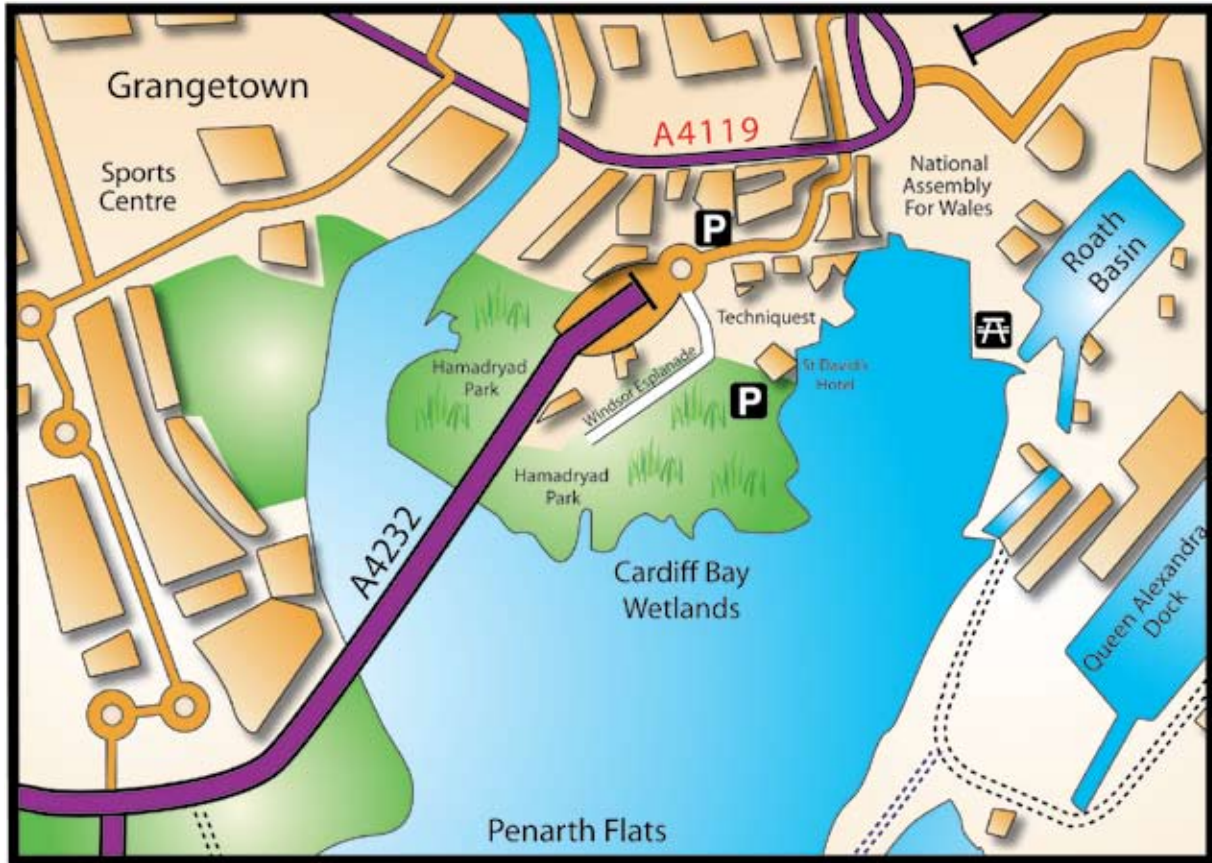
"Nice place to spend your lunch hour. Nice views"

"It's so peaceful and it's easy to forget the stress of the day. Watching all the wildlife helps me forget the stress of our modern life."





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**Information and Contacts**

The park is owned by Cardiff Harbour Authority and managed by the Parks Section. Further information about the reserve and any current events can be obtained from the [Harbour Authority Website](#) and also the [Parks Website](#).

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