

Parc Cwm Darran Audio Trail Script

9. Aerial Ropeway

As we have already mentioned, the area to the right of the lake was used to tip hundreds of thousands of tonnes of spoil. So how did it get up there? Well it started its journey just to the right of the car park we visited after stop 6 and over the years a number of methods were used...

This area here is where the aerial ropeway took the stone up to the mountain to be deposited on the mountain-side. Because stone, nobody wanted to buy stone, its the coal everybody wanted. So it was deposited and the aerial ropeway did require a lot of maintenance and they used to have a lot of problem, mechanical problems with it and a load was used for 30 years or more they did eventually go to lorries which were less maintenance free and more economical.

The aerial ropeway if you can think of a ski lift out in these resorts out in Europe or whatever, well instead of having a car hanging on the wires where people were standing you'd have a steel bucket which contained about 2 tonne of stone. And these buckets would go up on the rope and there was a mechanical device up on the mountain and when this bucket touched this mechanical device it would automatically tip the bucket and it would come back down to be refilled.

On the ropeway there could be up to 30 buckets all holding about 2 tonne each. Because prior to the aerial ropeway they had a track going up the mountain pulling trams. They had a winch or a haulage, we called it, up on the mountain and it used to pull about 10 trams at a time up there. And then they had a device up there then for tipping those trams over and then they had a bulldozer then that would keep pushing the muck and levelling.

Return back towards the north shaft, turn left and exit the memorial garden through the kissing gate. Carefully cross the road, turn left, follow the path in between the white lines and return to the car park you visited after stop 6. Listen to track 10 at the barrier that crosses the path directly ahead of you.

Key: Narrator | **Interview excerpts** | *Directions*