

Parc Cwm Darran Audio Trail Script

10. The Sawmill

And what we had just by here now was a sawmill. If you wanted something made underground like a door for ventilation purposes or, say they had wood delivered to the colliery now and it was this length and for some special job underground they wanted it half as long. Well rather have men underground sawing them they'd saw them all in the sawmill and put them all on a trolley and take them underground.

Let's walk through the sawmill now and into what was the stockyard. As you listen to Mike you can almost sense him seeing each of the items lined up and ready to go...

The stockyard was about 150 yards because you had timber, steel and then various other components. You had spare cages for the shaft, you know the cages that the men rode up and down in you had spare ones of those here. You didn't have to go to the manufacturers you know you always had a spare of everything here. Conveyor belting, everything was lined up here from right up to where that boy is by there. And you used to have roles of armoured cable for electric because you had to extend your electricity and stacks of pipes because the further in you went you had to extend your piped columns for water and compressed air. Everything was stacked up here.

And so as we leave the stockyard and this era behind us, Pete and Mike look to the future...

[Pete] We're gonna just continue to manage the site to encourage people to come here, we are going to manage the site to encourage the wildlife to stay here and for more wildlife to get here. And to just make sure that the people of Derry, Caerphilly and South Wales have an attractive place to come and stay and appreciate what was here and what is here.

[Mike] The transformation from colliery to Country Park is unbelievable. The work that the people concerned have put into it and are still putting into it, it's an excellent facility.

[Pete] There's something for everyone up here really and as Mike said we continue to trying to improve it and providing more facilities for more user groups to be able to utilise it.

We do hope you have enjoyed this audio trails production and wish you a safe journey home. Goodbye.

Follow the tarmac path straight ahead, alongside the right hand side of the lake, and after several minutes cross over the wooden bridge on your left. Turn right at the end of the path and head back up to the visitor centre.

This Audio Trail has been funded by the 'Get Going Around Caerphilly' project with Let's Walk Cymru grant aid. Not only have you learned about the history of Parc Cwm Darran, but you have also benefitted your health by having a walk.

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