

Parc Cwm Darran Audio Trail Script

4. Ogilvie Olympics

As you made your way down to this point you may have noticed the wooden apparatus on the right – this is the Ogilvie Olympics...

The emphasis was to try and to encourage young people out to a countryside environment and do a bit of exercise at the same time. There's about 8 or 9 different training stations and together they form a linear course. We get the local schools out, we have races along the course, it's all timed and they don't realise that actually they are undertaking exercise. They are having fun, they are working on team building skills, and they get a whole team through the assault course. It's really good; it's worked really well.

To your right, within the lake itself there is an ongoing challenge for Pete Lewis and his team.

Initially when the lake was designed and built it was one large water body. But now we accept that to reduce silting up in the future we are going to have one third wetland area- the top third being a wetland and the bottom two thirds being open water. So somewhere at this point here they have put a series of stones, large boulders, across the lakeside from one side to the other; and the aim of that is for the water to come down, hit the boulders so to speak, slow down, and then deposit its bed load in the top third of the lake; whereas before it was depositing throughout the whole of the lake.

The reeds to our left mark this line of boulders and much of this troublesome sediment has been washed down from spoil tips further north. As Pete adds, it makes sense to tackle this issue from both a financial and an environmental point of view.

At some point in time we recognise we are going to have to de-silt the top third, but it is much cheaper to de-silt one third than it is the whole of it. So yes, we have the best of both worlds here: we've got sandbanks, we've got mud banks on the top third, closed sort of water body, and on the flip-side we've got the open water on the bottom two thirds; so we have got lots of different habitats, rather than one just big open water habitat - so it is great for us.

One thing we have had is some indication that otters are passing up through. One of the locals seems to think he saw an otter going up one of the watercourses, so it's exciting times. It shows how much the rivers have cleaned up since the collieries have left.

At stop 5 we will discover that the water here wasn't always so beneficial to wildlife.

Continue along the path and listen to track 5 besides the bench, by the stopping mark, just before the island.

Key: Narrator | *Interview Excerpts* | *Directions*