



Cycles of Change

Man has altered this landscape many times, in many ways. It's still changing: new management techniques mean more places for wildlife to live - and more opportunities for us to enjoy it, too!



Planting hope for the future

The wooded slopes of Coed Craig is being replaced by wildlife-rich native woodland. Though most of the last century forestry that covered the slopes for commercial purposes as well as leisure and hunting, now, the conifer was replaced by woodlands managed over the centuries. Ancient woodland Ruperra have seen many changes.

Care for Ruperra

Whilst you enjoy this beautiful place, please help us to care for it by:

- Sticking to the paths
- Keeping your dog under control
- Taking your litter home
- Not picking wild flowers
- Not lighting fires

Thank you!



Ruperra Conservation Trust

COED CRAIG RUPERRA



Ruperra Conservation Trust
Application for membership

Please detach and send to:
Sue Price
Membership Secretary
The Council Offices,
Newport Road, Bedwas,
CF83 8YB.
Sue Price: 01633 440660
Trust office: 02920 887212

Application Membership Fee (Minimum Rates)

Please select one:

Single £10
 Family £15
 Concession £7
 Group £25

Please make your cheque payable to:
Ruperra Conservation Trust (Friends)

Block Capitals Please

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail address: _____

Where did you see this leaflet?

GIFT AID DECLARATION

As a registered charity we are able to reclaim the tax paid on donations. You can make your donation and/or membership fee go further if you are a tax payer and are willing to sign the statement below.

I authorise Ruperra Conservation Trust to reclaim the tax on any donation, including annual membership donations, that I make to it in future, or have made since April 6th 2000.

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Note:
1. You can cancel this notification at any time by contacting Ruperra Conservation Trust.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return.
3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask us or your local tax office for advice or call us on 01633 440660.
4. If you claim to pay tax, please let us know.

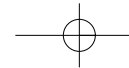
Ruperra Conservation Trust. Registered charity number 104276

Key

- Site boundary
- Public footpaths
- Permissive footpaths
- Bridleways
- Iron Age hillfort
- Water
- Access points (AP)
- Arbour (A)
- Lower Summerhouse (LSH)

Directions: To Michaelstone, To Rudry

Landmarks: Draethen Village, Hollybush Inn, Main car park, Motte, Hillfort, Ruperra Castle, Pond, Lower Summerhouse, West Lodge, Bridleways, Hillfort path, Lower Summerhouse path, Darfoll path, Ridge Way path, Conifer path, Steep path, Heather path, Main Track, Snowdrop path, Tree Trail, Pond.



COED CRAIG RUPERRA

“A pleasant place I was at today under mantles of the worthy green hazel”

So wrote one of Wales' greatest poets, Dafydd ap Gwilym, in the 14th Century. He had links with this place, and could almost have been describing the beautiful woodland scenery here.

Today, you can enjoy the same scenery, much changed over the centuries as people have adapted it to the needs of their times. By enjoying it responsibly, you can help Ruperra Conservation Trust keep this as a sanctuary for people and wildlife alike.



As well as native woodland, heathland and grasslands are being created to help other species of wildlife thrive.



Ancient woodland once covered these slopes. Now, new planting of native trees is helping to restore the wildlife value.



Bat Conservation Trust ©

Lesser and Greater Horseshoe bats roost nearby and forage in the woodlands at dusk.



Iron Age hillfort (200BC)
In the Iron Age, a mighty fort crowned the hilltop, dominating the landscape for miles around.



The Motte (1200)
A motte and bailey castle was later built on the site of the hillfort, probably by the Normans. The motte is still evident; it is the prominent mound on the summit of the hill.



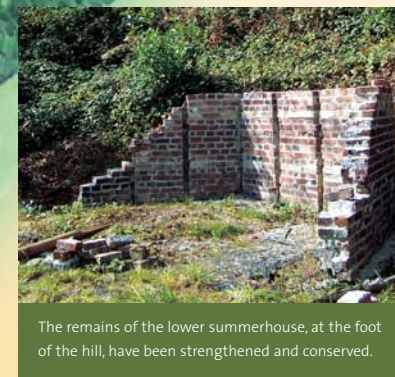
Summerhouse (1700)
We know from archaeological remains that people lived on the motte and made the most of the views in mediaeval times. Mention is made of Cadwgan in the 15th century "who built and died in the tower long called after him at Rhiwperra". From an Estate map we know that in the later 17th century a two storey stone summerhouse was built there. Finally, at the beginning of the 20th century, there was a split log, thatched summerhouse there, which people living today can remember.



Wild daffodils provide a glorious display in springtime.



A volunteer team from the British Trust for Ornithology are recording the birds which use the site, including Tree Pipits which are becoming increasingly rare.



The remains of the lower summerhouse, at the foot of the hill, have been strengthened and conserved.

Ruperra Conservation Trust

You can help Ruperra Conservation Trust look after this special place. Why not join our group of volunteers? All ages are welcome and no experience is needed – just enthusiasm!

To find out more, please contact Sue Price: 01633 440660 or Trust Office: 02920 887212 or email ruperra@googlemail.com

Ruperra Conservation Trust is supported by Cydcoed, Cadw, Caerphilly County Borough Council, WCVA, the Countryside Council for Wales, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Environment Wales, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Forestry Commission and many others.

