

Parc Cwm Darran Audio Trail Script

1.The Visitor Centre (2:30)

This audio trail has been produced with visually impaired people in mind and we hope you can enjoy the park, its history and its stories through the use of this audio trail.

Welcome to Cwm Parc Darran, a peaceful country park set in the heart of the Darran Valley. Over the next hour and a half you will discover how this visitor attraction has been transformed from a 'toxic planet' to a wildlife haven in less than thirty years. Okay, so the toxic planet was for BBC's Doctor Who, but it provided the perfect Martian landscape for the series in the late 1970's.

So what on earth could have happened here to make it a suitable alien backdrop? More will be revealed at stop 2. But before we move on let's take a look at the building behind us. Had we been here fifty years ago we'd have been knee deep in waste of another kind—pigs muck to be exact! That's because where you stand now would have been slap bang in the middle of a barn. But it wasn't just animals that were kept here overnight as Mike Iles reveals..

01_mike_undertaker (0:31) [fade out from 'overnight']

Colin he was the local undertaker. He used to keep his hearse, first of all it was a horse-drawn hearse, and then moved to the motor vehicle. But this was where his base was. He kept many a dead body here [laughs]. That's true that was because you didn't have a chapel of rest years ago, did you? But say you was buried early in the morning, they'd pick you up today and keep you on the hearse overnight and then to the local cemetery just up by here.

In a moment you will hear another voice—not one related to the farmers other occupation we hope - but a voice that will guide you to each of the following nine stops. The route ahead is relatively level and a smooth continuous surface lays in wait. However, if you have more than a mild visual impairment then a guide is strongly recommended, as there are hazards along the route; we must cross two car parks and take a detour along a lane used by vehicles. Where possible we have positioned stops besides benches or at the very least a place to lean against whilst you listen.

So let's now head just a few metres to stop 2 to discover the history of the toxic planet..

With your back to the visitor centre entrance walk forward until you come to the railings turn right and follow the railings until they meet a wall. Listen to track 2 a few steps further on where the wall turns slightly.