



Bannau  
Brycheiniog



Bannau Brycheiniog

# Reservoir Passport Scheme



Dŵr Cymru  
Welsh Water

# Welcome to Welsh Water reservoirs in the National Park

## **The Passport Scheme**

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and Dŵr Cymru Cyfyngedig, trading as Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW), in association with South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group (SWOAPG), have arranged the Passport Scheme (the Scheme) to enable organised groups, many of which will be members of SWOAPG, to access the following reservoirs for canoeing and kayaking - Pontsticill, Pentwyn, Usk and Beacons Reservoirs (see maps provided). The Scheme is administered by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. Any enquiries, applications or comments should be made to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority Headquarters in Brecon. Passport holders will be notified of any changes to it.

The Scheme was initially a one year Pilot (2013). In order for the Scheme to become successful and long-lasting, it is vital that Passport holders adhere to the terms of the Scheme as set out in this document. By signing the Licence Agreement you agree to be bound by the terms of the Scheme as if they were repeated in the Licence Agreement.

## **Launch and Landing Points**

The reservoirs are more dangerous than natural lakes and must be used with care. They are man-made structures to store and supply water and contain apparatus above and below water. Except in the case of an emergency, only the launch and landing points shown on the reservoir maps are to be used. These are marked at the waterside with access signs.

## **Parking**

Passport holder groups are asked to show respect to other car park users by parking carefully and thoughtfully. A group leader should check for litter and lost property before leaving a venue. Recommended parking areas are shown on the maps. The Passport must be displayed, visibly, inside the group's vehicle front window.



## Group Size and Boat Numbers

Maximum group size will be 12 persons, either in open canoes or kayaks, plus the instructional staff needed on the day. The Passport entitles the holder to take one group on one reservoir at any given time. There will be a maximum of 15 boats in use for one group. A separate Passport and fee is required for each group, so that if 2 groups from the same centre/business/club/group are using the reservoirs on the same day, then 2 Passports are required.

## Group Safety

Groups are responsible for their own safety and should be able to demonstrate upon request that risks are being properly managed. This will include being led by suitably qualified and experienced canoe and kayak coaches who are able to effect emergency responses in any prevailing conditions. Canoes and kayaks will be fit for purpose and positively buoyant when flooded. All canoeists and kayakers will wear suitable personal safety equipment in line with current good practice. Powered safety boats will not be allowed. Leaders must be current First Aid certificate holders. Groups often will be AALS licensed. For clubs, educational and voluntary groups not within the scope of AALS, the applicant will need to show evidence of suitable risk management, qualification and experience in group leadership to the satisfaction of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.

## Water Quality

Apart from unforeseen capsizes or essential training, deliberate immersion activities and swimming are forbidden. Passport holders should make every effort to maintain good water quality. Suitable toilet arrangements should be made using proper facilities away from the water catchment - the nearest toilets are shown on the reservoir maps.

## Dogs

In the interests of public safety Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water does not permit dogs to be brought onto the reservoir sites because they are used as drinking water supplies.

## Invasive Species and Biological Controls

All reasonable efforts must be made to limit the potential transfer of harmful organisms into the reservoirs because they are used as drinking water supplies. Boats and equipment being brought from waterways elsewhere must be thoroughly checked, cleaned and dried. See Check, Clean and Dry at [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org). This will limit the likely spread of organisms such as Zebra Mussel, Killer Shrimps and Signal Crayfish which cause huge problems for both native species and reservoir infrastructure. If your boats have been used in a previously 'infected' area (e.g. Cardiff Bay or Eglwys Nunydd), you must contact Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water at [biodiversity@dwrcymru.com](mailto:biodiversity@dwrcymru.com) for advice before taking boats onto reservoirs.



## Algal Blooms

Areas may contain algal blooms which can be toxic and an irritant and you should stay away from them.

## Streams

Canoeists are asked to stay well clear of streams entering the reservoirs during the spawning season (November - January) and when fishermen are using these (favoured) locations.

## Exclusion areas

Certain areas of each reservoir will be excluded for access - as shown on the reservoir maps.

These will be:

Safety exclusion zones - areas around dams, spillways and infra-structures which will be marked with red buoys.

Conservation exclusion zones - areas which will be conserved for wildlife - marked with green buoys.

## Shared Space

The reservoirs are traditionally used for fishing and Pontsticill is also used for sailing. It is essential that the water space is shared without conflict. Passport holders are asked to be respectful to other users so that user conflict does not threaten the future of the Scheme. Merthyr Sailing Club hold a lease for sailing at Pontsticill and their activities, which include racing, must not be affected by canoeing and kayaking - please keep well away from racing craft.

## Passport Checks and Enforcement

The Scheme will be supervised by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Rangers with help from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority staff. Please co-operate with their requests and instructions. Groups should only use the reservoirs with a valid Passport which must be available on request, and visible in the windscreen of the groups' main vehicle. Where a group is not following the Passports' terms, then Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water reserve the right

to terminate the group's Passport without notice, in which case no refund of the application fee will be made. Depending on the severity of a breach of terms, a caution may be given as an alternative to termination as a first response.

## Code of Conduct

Passport holders and their groups must follow the National Waterside Code - available from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority or Natural Resources Wales. A copy will be included with your Passport if your application is successful. Passport holders must comply with any relevant byelaws - obtainable for specific reservoirs from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and which are also displayed at the relevant reservoirs.

## Reservoir Closure

For operational and safety reasons, reservoirs may be closed for access. These closures will be posted at [www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org) and notified by the SWOAPG Alert email system. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will notify closures to SWOAPG and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. In the case of Pentwyn Reservoir, it must not be used if and for so long as the level is 2 metres or more below top water level which is clearly marked on gauge boards or valve gear, situated to the north of the bridge between Pentwyn Reservoir and Pontsticill Reservoir.



## **Application for a Bannau Brycheiniog Reservoir Passport**

The Scheme is available inter alia to full members of the SouthWales Outdoor Activity Providers Group (SWOAPG). Membership of SWOAPG is available to activity-provider businesses, educational outdoor centres and canoe and kayak clubs and education groups.

There is currently a charge for SWOAPG Membership, visit <https://swoapg.com/membership> for details.

The full Passport will last for a 12 month period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and will apply to all reservoirs in the Scheme.

### **Occasional Users**

For occasional users, a 7 Day Passport is available once each year - a second 7 day Passport will not be issued again in the same year. With the 7 Day Passport, the holder must notify Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority before each occasion when the Passport is to be used (up to a maximum of 7 days). The number of days used will be logged by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. Abuse of this option will automatically lead to removal from the Scheme. Contact Bannau Brycheiniog National Park: 01874 620464.

### **Passport Fee**

The charge for 1 Passport for 1 group for a 1 year period is £150 or £190 for 2 Passports. The Passport will last from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

For an applicant joining the Scheme for a 7 day Passport, the charge will be made on the basis of a £70 administration fee that will last for up to 7 days. Should Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water decide to terminate the Scheme, an appropriate reimbursement will be made, unless the reason for termination is an applicant's breach of any term of the Licence Agreement and/or of the Scheme.

### **Public Liability Insurance**

The applicant must show evidence of Public Liability insurance of at least £5 million for the activity intended. The provider organisation (e.g. club, centre, school group or business) is liable for the safety of its activity and the people taking part in it.

### **Risk Assessment**

Canoeing and kayaking activities must be formally risk assessed. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will make its site risk assessments available - these can be viewed at the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority Headquarters in Brecon. Activities must be risk-assessed by the applicant for both personal and group safety and water quality and invasive species control. A copy of the risk assessment(s) must be submitted with the application for the Passport.



APPLICATION FORM



# Bannau Brycheiniog Reservoir Passport

Name of your organisation: .....

SWOAPG Member: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Contact person and position in organisation: .....

Risk Assessments produced: Yes / No

Please attach Risk Assessment(s)

AALS Licence(\*) with canoeing and/or kayaking in scope: Yes / No

(\*)Please attach copy, or provide alternative accreditation. If AALS is not relevant e.g. Canoe Club in which case Canoe Wales/ BCU or equivalent club membership is appropriate, with details of risk management, qualifications and experience of leaders if AALS is not relevant.

Payment included (please circle appropriate amount):

- |                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1 Annual Passport   | £150 |
| 2 Annual Passports: | £190 |
| 7 Day Passport:     | £70  |

Cheques payable to:

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Public Liability Insurance (at least £5 million): Yes / No

Please attach copy.

Certificate no.: ..... Details of Insurers: .....

I agree to the terms of the Passport Scheme as outlined in this document.

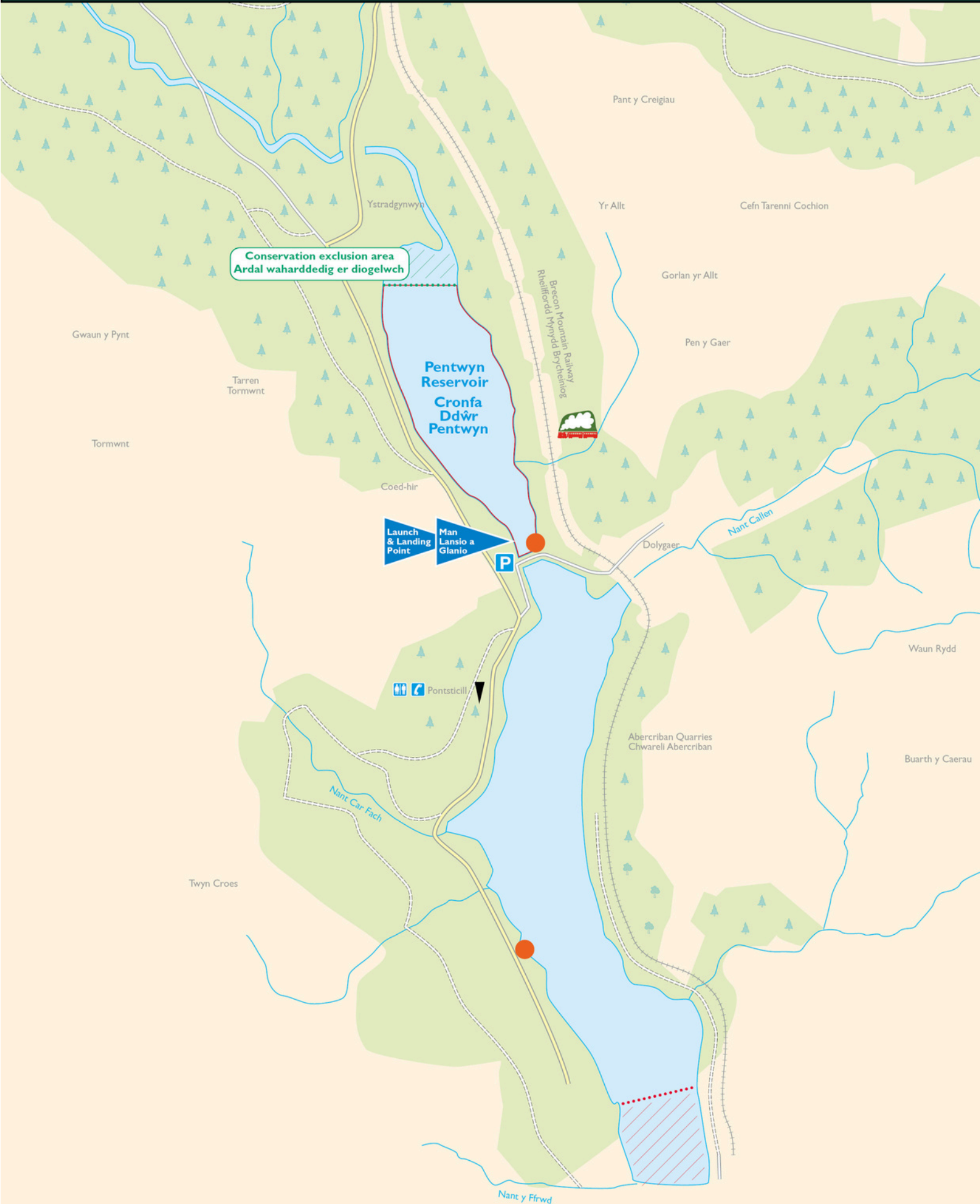
Signed: ..... Print name: .....

Position: ..... Date: .....

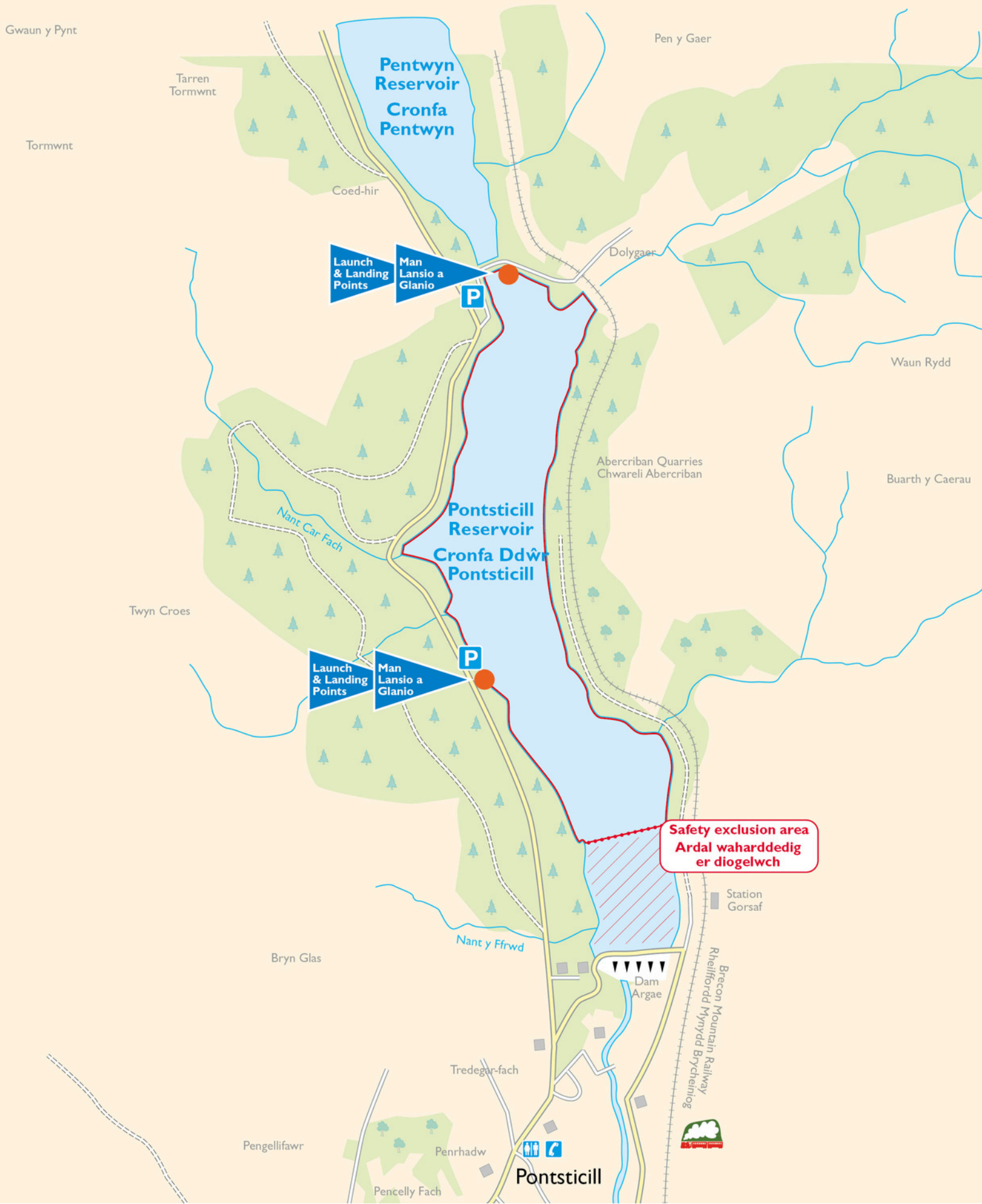
Please return the completed form and payment to:

Bannau Brycheiniog Reservoir Passport Scheme,  
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority,  
Plas y Ffynnon, CambrianWay,  
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HP

# CRONFA DDŴR PENTWYN RESERVOIR

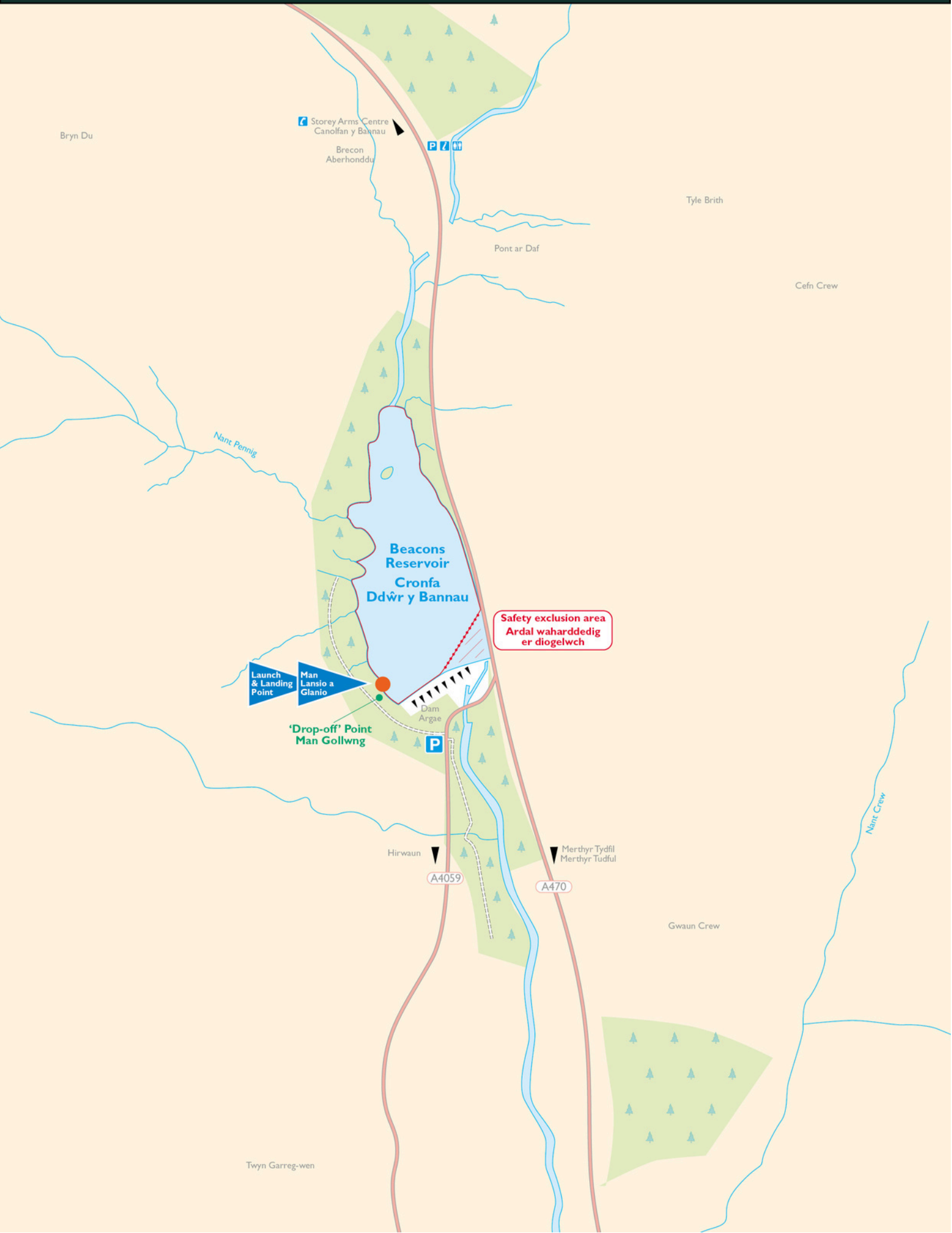


# CRONFA DDŴR PONTSTICILL RESERVOIR

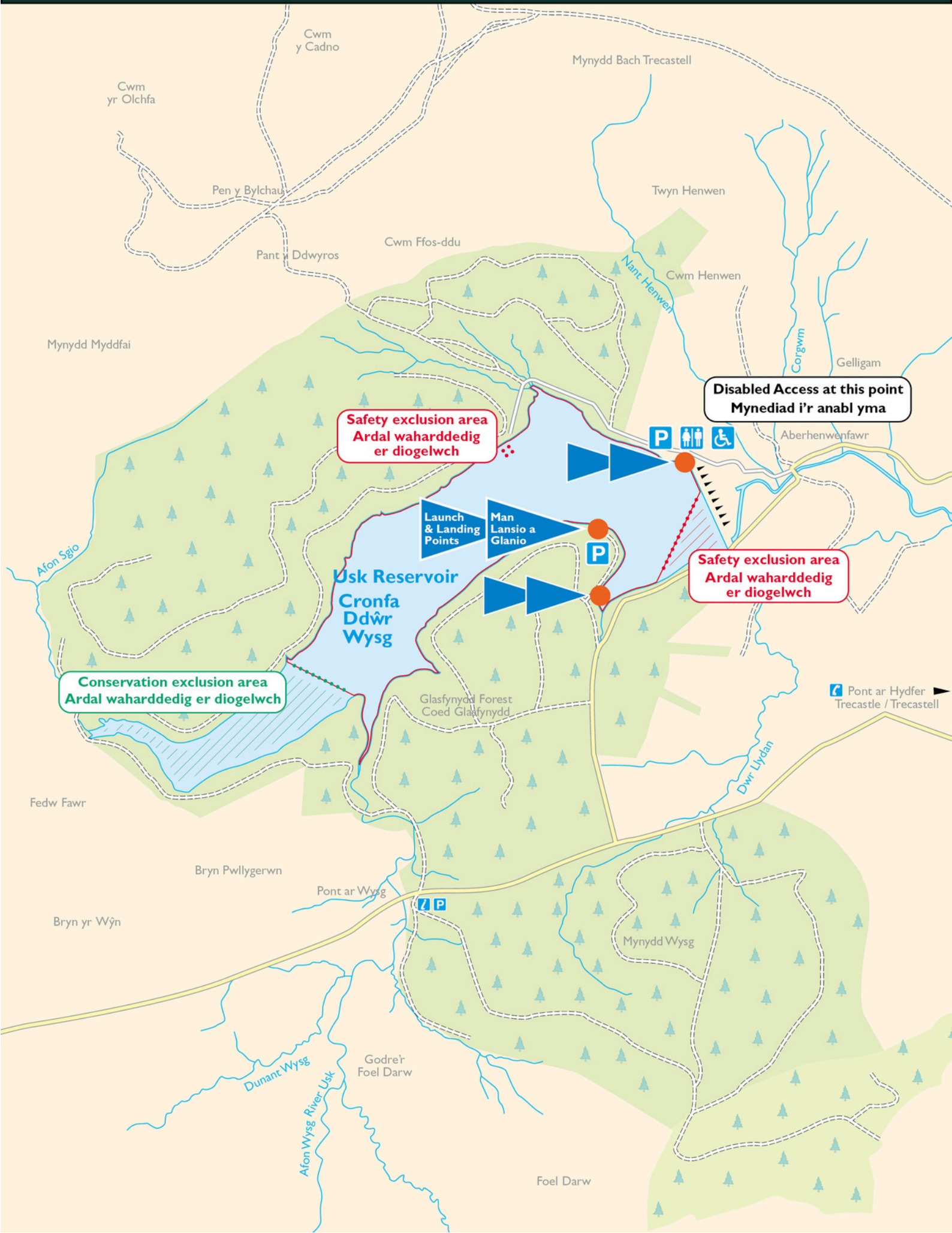




# CRONFA DDŴR Y BANNAU BEACONS RESERVOIR



# CRONFA DDŴR WYSG USK RESERVOIR





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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Cymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

Photos courtesy of Gabriella Karney & Bannau Brycheiniog National Park