

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: CITATION

VALE OF GLAMORGAN **LLYNNOEDD COSMESTON/COSMESTON LAKES**

Date of Notification: 4 March 2009

National Grid Reference: ST 174 691

OS Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171
 1:25,000 Sheet number: 151

Site Area: 25.6 ha

Description:

Llynnoedd Cosmeston/Cosmeston Lakes is situated 2km south of Penarth. It includes two lakes, created from flooded limestone quarries, which are connected by a narrow channel. These are deep (up to 10m), eutrophic water bodies, which support a range of submerged plants.

One of the lakes is of special interest as the only known site in Wales for the presence of starry stonewort *Nitellopsis obtusa*. This species usually grows in lakes of between 1m and 6m in depth. Elsewhere in Britain it occurs in the Norfolk Broads and in Gloucestershire, where it is found in calcareous lakes near the sea. This suggests that the species prefers slightly brackish conditions. The lakes at Cosmeston Park are less than 1.5km from the Bristol Channel.

The site also includes areas of swamp, ponds and grassland that form part of the water catchment area for the lake.

Remarks:

Cosmeston Park is owned and managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

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