

## **Rhoose Cardiff International Airport - Station with the Longest name in UK**

Following its recent reopening with a new name (the station was known as "Rhoose" before it closed in 1964), this station now holds the distinction of having the longest name for a station as recognised by National Rail in the UK, in both English (33 letters, excluding spaces) and Welsh (Maes Awyr Rhyngwladol Caerdydd Y Rhws – 28 letters, as dd, ng and rh are single letters in Welsh).

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch railway station arguably has a longer name, but the village in question was deliberately given a contrived name for that very reason, and the station is known officially as either Llanfairpwll or Llanfairpwllgwyngyll.

In 1897 the Vale of Glamorgan Railway was built to link Bridgend with the docks at Barry essentially for purpose of carrying coal for export to Barry.

The eastbound platform of the new station is where the cement works used to be. The old station was just west of the road.

**Untruth: There are moves in Cardiff to rename Heath High Level station - "Heath High Level, Heath Hospital - University Hospital Wales" which would make it the longest station name in UK.**

## **Cardiff Airport**

A former RAF airport - construction started in 1941 as a training base for spitfires.

It closed after the war and became dilapidated.

Cardiff considered what to do with the then Cardiff Airport at Pengan Moor. Expanding it would mean diverting the course of the River Rhymney. So instead they purchased what we now know as Cardiff airport. Needed to clear away some bombs that had been left.

Opened in 1954 with Aer Lingus started a service to Dublin.

Concord landed a few times - but runway only just long enough then. Has since been lengthened to take bigger jets.

British Airways has a large maintenance base there for its fleet of aircraft.

## **Rhoose Individuals**

D. Gwilym John or D. G. John, was a Welsh cartoonist, best known as the creator of the cartoon character Dai Lossin.

We also learnt during the day that Colin Jackson, the Olympic hurdler, lives in Rhoose.

## **Industry**

Limestone quarries along the cliff.

Cement works - The first kiln was built and associated quarries were opened in 1919.

Asbestos cement works. Asbestos cement was used in many building materials including drain pipes and guttering and corrugated roofing. In 1935 the Turners Asbestos Cement Company factory was built next to the cement works south of the railway to form a substantial manufacturing development.

Asbestos fibres can lead to various dangerous lung conditions, including mesothelioma, asbestosis, and lung cancer.

More about the history of Rhoose and be found on the [Rhoose History website](#).

## **Flora and Fauna and Wildlife.**

The old industrial landscape has now been taken over by nature and provides a home for many species of birds and butterflies as depicted on the information boards in the area.

Untruth: One local inhabitant, an exile from Scotland with a broad accent, once even claimed he even saw a moose in his garden. It was of course probably a deer but from that day on his house became known as "The Rhoose Moose Hoose".