

**Contact**

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Space

The layout can be operated from the front or rear, and requires approximately 3.5m x 1.5m of space

Cwm Bach (translation: little valley) is a fictional location, somewhere in the South Wales valleys, nominally a few miles from Pontypridd (but not to be confused with the real Cwmbach near Aberdare).

In this 7mm scale/O gauge model, it's presented as a run-down late 1980s single track branch line, with a small platform and a DMU service. The line was once double-tracked and continued through a tunnel but that was closed many years ago and only remains today because it's a reversing point for freight (mostly civil engineering and wagon repairs). There's no space for a run-round loop, which necessitates some shunting and there's generally an 08 or two to be seen. As well as the regular DMU service, Cwm Bach also sees the occasional visitor on a test run from Cathays Works or Cardiff Canton depot. Watch out for a 37, a 33 or a 56 either "light engine" or with some interesting short trains as well as an occasional steam special...

What started out as 'just a micro layout with a shunter and a few wagons' has grown into something much more detailed and complex with an extensive collection of locomotives and rolling stock.

Size	3.1m x 0.5m (approx). 2m scenic section.
Control	DCC controlled track, DC points and lighting.
Details	Peco track. DCC Concepts switches for points and signals. Routemex colour light signals; slow motion point motors. A variety of manufacturers' stock (mostly Heljan and Dapol, but also Ellis Clark and Minerva).
Time to build	3 years (so far)



Cwm Bach set up and ready for exhibiting at the Olney MRC exhibition in September 2025.

(It will have curtains below the layout for its next trip out.)



Cwm Bach looking towards the station and sidings.



Cwm Bach looking across the station throat and towards the traverser.

These pictures are from the layout's first exhibition. Additional elements are being added all the time. Follow the layout's progress at <https://www.rmweb.co.uk/topic/171719-cwm-bach-a-1980s-south-wales-branch-line-terminus/>

Last updated 13 December 2025. For the latest details, please contact Mark by email or phone - contact details can be found overleaf.