

# FORGING HISTORY

# HANES GYRRU HAEARN

Circular walk/Approx 4.5 Km (2.8 miles)/1.5 hours

Taith gylch/Tua 4.5 Km (2.8 milltir)/1.5 awr



## TREASURE TRAILS LLWYBRAU TRYSOR



# TREASURE TRAIL TALES

Welcome to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site! Since the year 2000 this industrial landscape has been recognised as one of the world's top heritage treasures. This is because it is one of the very few places where you can follow the story of the industrial revolution. A story that was first carved into the landscape by an army of people, using little more than picks and shovels, some 200 years ago.

However, this industrial landscape does not reveal its secrets very easily so you will have to get out and discover

its hidden gems for yourselves! To help you, we've created this series of 'Treasure Trails', each one with a tale to tell, treasure to find and challenges to complete along the way.

We hope you have fun exploring the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. By the time you've walked our trails you'll be an expert in reading the landscape, seeing it for what it really is, full of character and historical interest - a true testament to human endeavour.

# STORÏAU TEITHIAU TRYSOR

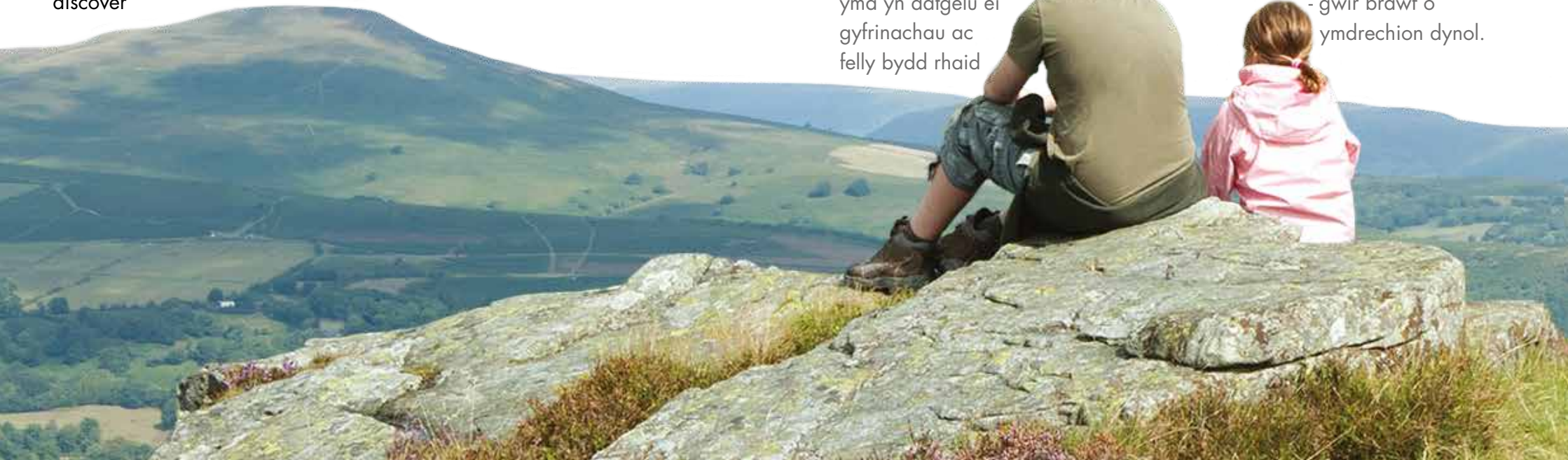
Croeso i Safle Treftadaeth Byd Blaenafon! Ers y flwyddyn 2000 mae'r tirlun diwydiannol hwn wedi'i gydnabod yn un o drysorau pennaf treftadaeth y byd. Y rheswm am hyn yw ei fod yn un o'r ychydig iawn o leoedd lle gallwch ddilyn stori'r chwyldro diwydiannol. Dyma sori a gafodd ei naddu gyntaf yn y tirlun gan fyddin o bobl yn defnyddio fawr ddim mwy na chaib a rhaw, tua 200 mlynedd yn ôl.

Er hynny, nid ar chwarae bach y mae'r tirlun diwydiannol yma yn datgelu ei gyfrinachau ac felly bydd rhaid

ichi fynd ati i ganfod ei drysorau cudd drosoch eich hunain! I'ch helpu, rydyn ni wedi creu'r gyfres yma o 'Teithiau Trysor', bob un â'i stori i'w hadrodd, ei drysor i'w ganfod a'i heriau i'w cwblhau ar hyd y ffordd.

Gobeithio y cewch chi hwyl yn crwydro Safle Treftadaeth Byd Blaenafon. Erbyn ichi gerdded ein llwybrau fe fyddwch yn arbenigwr mewn darllen y tirlun. Byddwch yn gweld beth sydd yno mewn gwirionedd, tirlun llawn cymeriad a diddordeb hanesyddol

- gwir brawf o ymdrechion dynol.



## Iestyn's Tale

I saw it all. 50 years of fire and fury then nothing. 'The Forge', I'm talking about. Garnddyrys Forge. If you look carefully, you can still make out the walled remains of the furnaces, and once your eye is in you'll spot other features too, but you'll struggle to appreciate what it was really like. So let me tell you as best I can.

I started work at the Forge when I was eight. That was back in 1819 when the 'rape of the fair country' was in full flow. The Forge was new then. Built to work the 'pig iron', coming up from the ironworks at Blaenavon, into a more useful product. At the height of production the Forge was operating night and day, churning out some 300 tons of iron bars and rails each week. Well over a hundred people worked here and many of them lived here too. It was a dangerous place to work. The mighty steam driven hammers would smash into the molten iron, sending white hot slag across the floor of the workshop. The smell of sulphur was thick in the air and if you were lucky enough to avoid an accident, more likely as not, you would suffer with your chest. The arrival of the railway in Blaenavon meant that the ironmasters no longer needed to haul their iron over the

mountain and down to the canal and the whole operation was moved to the place they now call Forgeside. Looking back, it was as though an industrial monster had raised its head above the hillside, shed its skin and moved on.



Hill's Tramroad and Garnddyrys Forge in the 1840's.  
Dramffordd Hill ac Efail Garnddyrys yn y 1840au

## Stori Iestyn

Fe welais y cyfan. 50 mlynedd o dân a ffyrnigrwydd ac yna dim. 'Y Gwaith', rwy'n sôn am. Efail Garnddyrys. Os edrychwch chi'n ofalus, mae olion waliau'r ffwrneisi i'w gweld o hyd, ac unwaith y bydd eich llygaid yn addasu fe welwch nodweddion eraill hefyd, ond anodd iawn fydd hi i ddychmygu fel oedd hi o ddi-fri. Felly gadewch i mi ddweud wrthy'ch, fe wna'f fy ngorau.

Dechreuais weithio yn yr Efail pan oeddwn yn wyth. Roedd hynny nôl yn 1819 pan oedd 'rape of the fair country' yn ei anterth. Roedd yr Efail yn newydd bryd hynny. Cafodd ei hadeiladu i weithio'r 'haearn crai', a ddeuai i fyny o waith haearn Blaenafon a'i droi'n gynnyrch mwy defnyddiol. Yn ei hanterth, roedd yr efail yn gweithio dydd a nos, yn creu rhyw 300 tonnell o farrau a rheiliau haearn bob wythnos. Roedd ymhell dros gant o bobl yn gweithio yma ac roedd llawer ohonynt yn byw yma hefyd.

Roedd yn lle peryglus iawn i weithio. Byddai'r morthwylion anterth a yrrwyd ag ager yn taro'r haearn tawdd, gan anfon sorod chwilboeth ar hyd llawr y gweithdy. Roedd arogl sylffwr yn llenwi'r aer ac os oeddech yn ddigon ffodus i osgoi damwain, byddech yn siŵr o ddi-ddoddef â'r frest.

Roedd dyfodiad y rheilffordd ym Mlaenafon yn golygu nad oedd angen i'r haearn feistri gludo'u haearn dros y mynydd ac i lawr i'r gamlas mwyach, a symudwyd yr holl beth i'r man y maen nhw'n ei alw'n Ger-yr-efail heddiw. Wrth edrych yn ôl, roedd hi fel petai anghenfil diwydiannol wedi codi ei ben uwchben y bryn, diosg ei groen a symud ymlaen.

## Rape of The Fair Country

Iestyn's tale was inspired by 'Rape of the Fair Country' the best-selling novel by Alexander Cordell. Cordell was a writer who, above all others, captured in words what it might have been like to live through the turbulent times of the Industrial Revolution in 19th century Wales. In walking this trail and visiting the ruins of the Garnddyrys Forge you will be following in the footsteps of some of the unforgettable characters he created.

## Rape of The Fair Country

Ysbrydolwyd stori Iestyn gan 'Rape of the Fair Country' y nofel boblogaidd gan Alexander Cordell. Ysgrifennwr oedd Cordell, a wnaeth lwyddo, yn anad neb, i gipio mewn geiriau, sut beth oedd hi o ddifri i fyw yng nghyfnod cythryblus y Chwyldro Diwydiannol yng Nghymru yn y 19eg ganrif. Wrth gerdded y llwybr hwn ac ymweld ag adfeilion Efail Garnddyrys, byddwch yn dilyn olion traed rhai o'r cymeriadau bythgofiadwy a grëwyd ganddo.



## Garnddyrys Forge Challenge

To take the challenge you will first need to find the Garnddyrys Forge Treasure Marker... it's a cast iron disc set in the ground near an interpretation panel at the far end of Keeper's Pond. Once you've found it stand on top and look around. If it's a clear day you'll be able to see a quarry not too far away on the other side of the valley. What direction do you need to look in to see it? Can you guess what stone was quarried here and if so where it might have ended up? The answers to the challenge can be found on the back cover of this leaflet.



## Her Efail Garnddyrys

I gyflawni'r her, yn gyntaf bydd angen i chi ddod o hyd i Farc Trysor Efail Garnddyrys... sef disg haearn bwrw wedi ei osod yn y ddaear ger panel dehongli ym mhen pellaf Pwll Pen-ffordd-goch. Unwaith y byddwch wedi dod o hyd iddo arhoswch arno ac edrychwch o'ch cwmpas. Os yw'n ddiwrnod clir fe welwch chwarel, lled agos, ar ochr arall y cwm. I ba gyfeiriad sydd angen i chi edrych er mwyn ei gweld? Fedrwch chi ddyfalu pa garreg oedd yn cael ei chloddio yma, ac os felly, i ble y cafodd ei chludo? Mae'r atebion i'r her ar gefn clawr y daflen yma.





# SPOTTER'S GUIDE CANLLAW I WYLWYR

Ten top spots  
Y Deg Mwyaf Poblogaidd

The result of all that industrial activity is a rich mosaic of habitats for wildlife and a highly diverse range of species that have made the Blaenavon World Heritage Site their home. What might you expect to see along the way? To help you identify some of the inhabitants we've highlighted a few below. See if you can spot them too...

Mae'r holl weithgarwch diwydiannol wedi arwain at frithwaith cyfoethog o gynefinoedd i fywyd gwyllt ac ystod amrywiol tu hwnt o rywogaethau sydd bellach yn byw ar Safle Treftadaeth y Byd. Beth fydddech chi'n disgwyl ei weld ar hyd y ffordd? I'ch helpu i ganfod rhai o'r rhywogaethau, rydym wedi eu hamlygu uchod. Beth am weld a fedrwrch chi eu gweld hefyd...



Sphagnum Moss  
Mwsagl Sphagnum



Hawthorn  
Draenen wen



Hart's Tongue Fern  
Rhedyr Talod yr hyd



Gorse Shieldbug  
Tarianbryf yr eithin



Cowslip  
Briallu Mair



Stonechat  
Clochdar y cerrig



Foxglove  
Bysedd y cŵn



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary  
Brietheg berlog



Pyramid Orchid  
Tegeirian bera



Peregrine Falcon  
Hebog tramor

How did you get on?  
Sut wnaethoch chi?

POINTS/PWYNT 30+ you're a top spotter!  
rydych chi'n wylwyr gwych!

15-30 good spotting  
da iawn wir

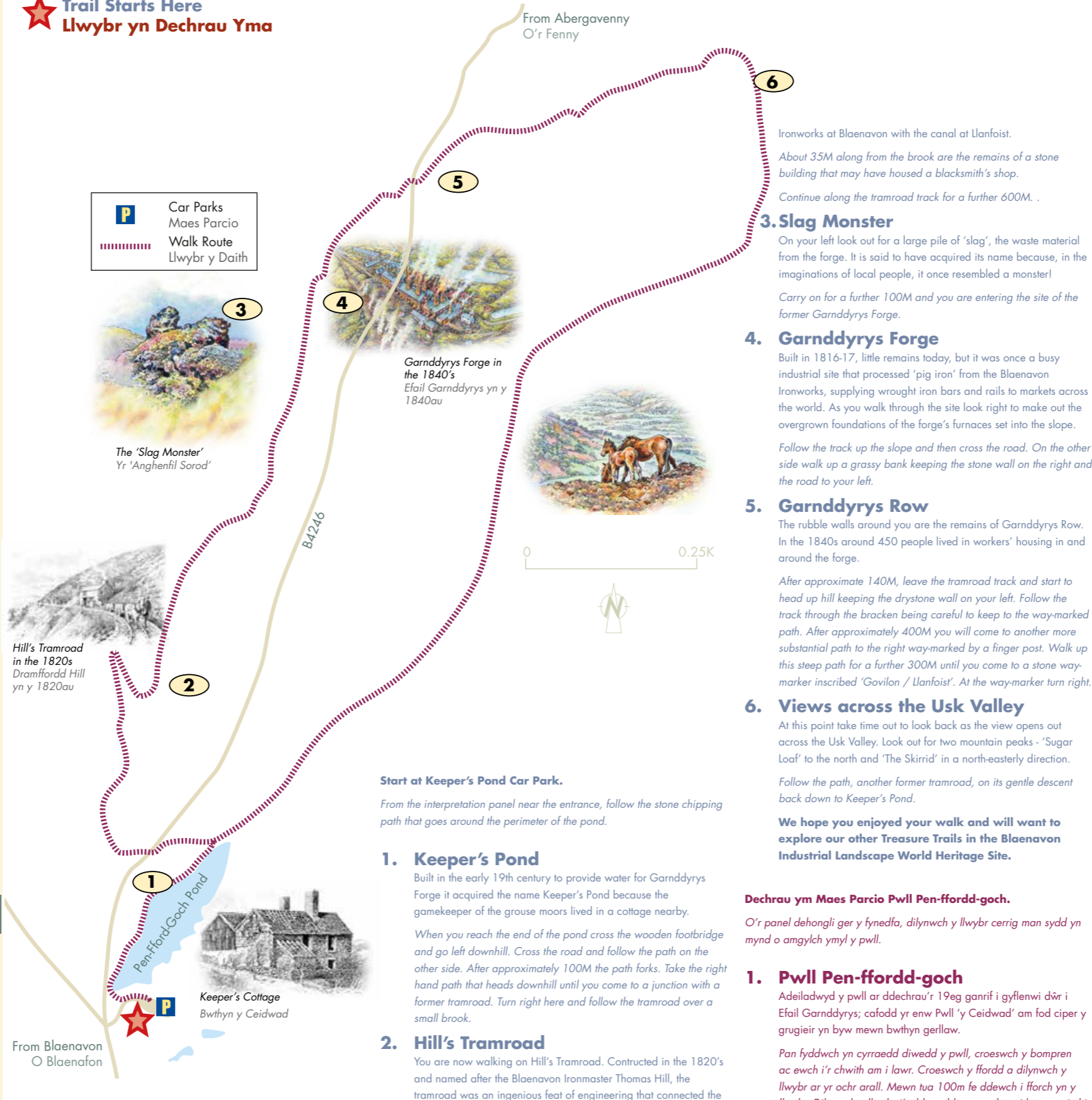
5-15 room to improve your spots!  
lle i wellat llai na

<5 never mind better luck on the next Treasure Trail  
peidiwch â phoeni, gwell lwc ar y Llwybr Trysor nesaf!



# FORGING HISTORY HANES GYRRU HAEARN

★ Trail Starts Here  
Llwybr yn Dechrau Yma



**P** Car Parks  
Maes Parcio  
Walk Route  
Llwybr y Daith

**3** The 'Slag Monster'  
Yr 'Anghenfil Sorod'

**2** Hill's Tramroad  
in the 1820s  
Dramffordd Hill  
yn y 1820au

**1** Keeper's Pond  
Pen-Ffordd-Goch Pond  
Keeper's Cottage  
Bwthyn y Ceidwad

**4** Garnddyrys Forge in  
the 1840's  
Efail Garnddyrys yn y  
1840au



**6** Ironworks at Blaenavon with the canal at Llanfoist.  
About 35M along from the brook are the remains of a stone building that may have housed a blacksmith's shop.  
Continue along the tramroad track for a further 600M.

**3. Slag Monster**  
On your left look out for a large pile of 'slag', the waste material from the forge. It is said to have acquired its name because, in the imaginations of local people, it once resembled a monster!  
Carry on for a further 100M and you are entering the site of the former Garnddyrys Forge.

**4. Garnddyrys Forge**  
Built in 1816-17, little remains today, but it was once a busy industrial site that processed 'pig iron' from the Blaenavon Ironworks, supplying wrought iron bars and rails to markets across the world. As you walk through the site look right to make out the overgrown foundations of the forge's furnaces set into the slope.  
Follow the track up the slope and then cross the road. On the other side walk up a grassy bank keeping the stone wall on the right and the road to your left.

**5. Garnddyrys Row**  
The rubble walls around you are the remains of Garnddyrys Row. In the 1840s around 450 people lived in workers' housing in and around the forge.  
After approximate 140M, leave the tramroad track and start to head up hill keeping the drystone wall on your left. Follow the track through the bracken being careful to keep to the way-marked path. After approximately 400M you will come to another more substantial path to the right way-marked by a finger post. Walk up this steep path for a further 300M until you come to a stone way-marker inscribed 'Govilon / Llanfoist'. At the way-marker turn right.

**6. Views across the Usk Valley**  
At this point take time out to look back as the view opens out across the Usk Valley. Look out for two mountain peaks - 'Sugar Loaf' to the north and 'The Skirrid' in a north-easterly direction.  
Follow the path, another former tramroad, on its gentle descent back down to Keeper's Pond.  
**We hope you enjoyed your walk and will want to explore our other Treasure Trails in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.**

Start at Keeper's Pond Car Park.  
From the interpretation panel near the entrance, follow the stone chipping path that goes around the perimeter of the pond.

**1. Keeper's Pond**  
Built in the early 19th century to provide water for Garnddyrys Forge it acquired the name Keeper's Pond because the gamekeeper of the grouse moors lived in a cottage nearby.  
When you reach the end of the pond cross the wooden footbridge and go left downhill. Cross the road and follow the path on the other side. After approximately 100M the path forks. Take the right hand path that heads downhill until you come to a junction with a former tramroad. Turn right here and follow the tramroad over a small brook.

**2. Hill's Tramroad**  
You are now walking on Hill's Tramroad. Constructed in the 1820's and named after the Blaenavon Ironmaster Thomas Hill, the tramroad was an ingenious feat of engineering that connected the

**Dechrau ym Maes Parcio Pwll Pen-ffordd-goch.**  
O'r panel dehongli ger y fynedfa, dilynwch y llwybr cerrig man sydd yn mynd o amgylch ymyl y pwll.

**1. Pwll Pen-ffordd-goch**  
Adeiladwyd y pwll ar ddechrau'r 19eg ganrif i gyflenwi dŵr i Efail Garnddyrys; cafodd yr enw Pwll 'y Ceidwad' am fod ciper y grugieir yn byw mewn bwthyn gerllaw.  
Pan fyddwch yn cyrraedd diwedd y pwll, croeswch y bompren ac ewch i'r chwth am i lawr. Croeswch y ffordd a dilynwch y llwybr ar yr ochr arall. Mewn tua 100m fe ddewch i fforch yn y llwybr. Dilynwch y llwybr i'r dde sydd yn mynd am i lawr tan i chi

ddod i gyffordd hen dramffordd. Trowch i'r dde yma a dilynwch y dramffordd dros nant fach.

**2. Dramffordd Hill**  
Rydych nawr yn cerdded ar Dramffordd Hill. Cafodd ei hadeiladu yn y 1820au a chafodd ei henwi ar ôl Thomas Hill, haearn feistr Blaenafon. Roedd y dramffordd ei hun yn orchest beirianeol ddyfeisgar a oedd yn cysylltu Gwaith Haearn Blaenafon â'r gamlas yn Llan-ffwyst.  
Tua 35m ymhellach ymlaen o'r nant mae olion adeilad carreg a oedd ymhob tebyg yn gartref i siop gof.  
Ewch ar hyd llwybr y dramffordd am 600m arall.

**3. Anghenfil Sorod**  
Ar eich chwith cadwch lygad yn agored am domen fawr o 'sorod', y defnydd gwastraff o'r efail. Dywedir iddo gael ei enw am ei fod, yn nychymyg y bobl leol, yn edrych fel anghenfil ar un adeg!  
Ewch ymlaen am 100m arall ac fe fyddwch yn camu i safle Efail Garnddyrys gynt.

**4. Efail Garnddyrys**  
Cafodd ei hadeiladu ym 1816-17, ac ychydig iawn ohoni sy'n bodoli heddiw, ond roedd unwaith yn safle diwydiannol prysur a phrosesu 'haearn crai' o Waith Haearn Blaenafon, i gyflenwi barrau a rheiliau haearn gyr i farchnadoedd ledled y byd. Wrth i chi gerdded drwy'r safle edrychwch i'r dde ac fe welwch sylfeini ffwrneisi'r efail ymhlith y gordyfiant yn y llethr.  
Dilynwch y llwybr i'fyny'r llethr ac yna croeswch y ffordd. Ar yr ochr arall, cerddwch i'fyny'r llethr glaswelltog gyda'r wal gerrig ar eich ochr dde a'r ffordd ar eich ochr chwith.

**5. Rhes Garnddyrys**  
Y waliau rwbol o'ch amgylch yw gweddillion Rhes Garnddyrys. Yn y 1840au roedd tua 450 o bobl yn byw mewn tai gweithwyr yn yr efail ac o'i chwmpas.  
Ar ôl tua 140m, gadewch lwybr y dramffordd a dechreuwch eich ffordd i'fyny'r bryn, gyda'r wal gerrig sych ar eich ochr chwith. Dilynwch y llwybr drwy'r rhedyr gan ofalu eich bod yn cadw at y llwybr sydd ag arwyddbyst. Ar ôl tua 400m fe ddewch i lwybr mwy sylweddol i'r dde â mynegbost yn dangos y ffordd. Cerddwch i'fyny'r llwybr serth am 300m pellach tan i chi ddod ar draws arwyddbost o garreg yn dangos 'Govilon/Llan-ffwyst'. Trowch i'r dde wrth yr arwyddbost.

**6. Golygfeydd ar draws Dyffryn Wysg**  
Yma, cymerwch amser i edrych yn ôl wrth i'r golygfeydd ymestyn ar draws dyffryn Wysg. Cadwch lygad yn agored am ddau gopa - 'Pen y Fâl' i gyfeiriad y gogledd a'r 'Ysgyryd' i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.  
Dilynwch y llwybr dramffordd arall, gan esgyn yn raddol yn ôl i Bwll Pen-ffordd-goch.

**Gobeithwn eich bod wedi mwynhau eich taith ac y byddwch am grwydro mwy o'n Llwybrau Trysor yn Nhirwedd Ddiwydiannol Blaenafon, Safle Treftadaeth y Byd.**

# BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

## TIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL BLAENAFON

### Forging History Trail

The Trail is a circular walk of approximately 4.5 Kms (2.8 miles) which is suitable for families with younger children and should take 1.5 hours to complete. For your own safety it is recommended that you wear stout footwear and warm waterproof clothing.

### Llwybr Hanes Gyrru Haearn

Mae'r llwybr yma tua 4.5 Km (2.8 milltir) sydd yn addas i deuluoedd â phlant hŵn, a dylai gymryd 1.5 awr i'w chwblhau. Er eich diogelwch, awgrymir eich bod yn gwisgo esgidiau cryfion a dillad glaw, cynnes.

### Information/Gwybodaeth

We hope you have fun exploring the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

For more information visit [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk) or contact the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333.

Gobeithiwn y cewch hwyl yn crwydro Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. I gael mwy o wybodaeth ewch i [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk) neu cysylltwch â Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ar 01495 742333.



Tel/Ffôn: 01495 742333  
[www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)  
[blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk)

Answer to Garrndryys Forge Challenge: Well done if you spotted Pwll-du Quarry in a north-northwest direction. The quarry provided limestone which was transported via tramroad to the furnaces at Blaenavon Ironworks. Hard luck if the weather has spoiled the view this time around!

Ateb i Her Ffai! Garrndryys: Da iawn chi! os welsoch chi! Chwael Pwll-du! gyfeiriad gogledd-gogledd-orllewin. Arferai'r chwael gyflenwi calchfaen a gludwyd ar dramffordd i ffwrns. Hen dro os na welsoch yr olygfa y tro yma oherwydd y tywydd!

