

## BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The history of industrial activity in the area dates back to the 16th Century but it was the development of the Ironworks in 1789 that led to the growth of the town. The works were the first purpose-built multi-furnace ironworks in Wales. By 1796 it was the second largest producer of iron in Wales, with an annual output of 5,460 tons.

Many of the Listed Buildings which are seen on this walk are linked to the evolution of the town's industrial heritage. The town itself is the focus of a number of books by Alexander Cordell, the most famous of which is 'Rape of the Fair Country'.

A new impetus for growth was provided by the opening of the Forgeside Works, the sinking of Big Pit and the opening of railway lines to Brynmawr and Pontypool in the mid 19th Century.

The importance of the heritage of the town and its environs as a resource of World significance is demonstrated by 46 Listed Buildings, eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments, its designation in the register of Landscapes of Outstanding and Historic Interest in Wales and the designation of a Conservation Area in 1984.

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was placed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in November 2000.

## BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE THE COUNTRY CODE

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work;
- Guard against all risk of fire;
- Fasten all gates;
- Keep your dogs under control, preferably on a lead;
- Keep to public paths across farmland;
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls;
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone;
- Take your litter home;
- Help to keep all water clean;
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees;
- Take special care on country roads;
- Make no unnecessary noise.

Other walks leaflets for the World Heritage Site and other areas in Torfaen are available. For further information contact Blaenavon Tourist Information Centre on 01495 742333 [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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Valleys Programme

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# BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

## Circular Walk

Approx 17Km (10½ miles)/ 5-5½ hours/  
Moderate to Strenuous



[www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)



**THE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE**  
**A CIRCULAR WALK INCLUDING PART OF**  
**THE BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE**  
**WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

**Approx 17Km (10½ miles): 5-5½ hours / moderate to strenuous**

**The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was awarded World Heritage Site status by the United Nations Educational Science & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in November 2000.**

It is also included in the register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, published by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Welsh Historic Monuments (CADW) and the International Council on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS UK).



Blaenavon is one of the most significant examples of development in the formative years of the Industrial Revolution in Wales. Within the space of a few decades the landscape changed from that of a sparsely populated moorland area into industrial communities with all the features of urban life. As industry grew so the houses and streets multiplied until in places they eventually merged to form one town.

Included on the walk are numerous Grade I, II and II\* Listed Buildings. The grading means they have been identified as being of special architectural or historic interest as determined by the Secretary of State for Wales.

This walk has been designed to guide visitors around part of the World Heritage Site to see some of the heritage features that contribute towards its recognition as outstanding in terms of its industrial heritage. The walk also allows one to see the wide variety of both natural and man-made landscapes that exist within the area and to experience spectacular views of the valley. The route is approximately 17Km (10½ miles) and will take about 5 -5½ hours to complete.



The waymark is a yellow arrow marked with the circular walk number. The route includes paths in exposed locations which may be wet throughout the year. For your own comfort and safety, make sure that you are properly equipped with warm, waterproof clothing. Walking boots or strong shoes are essential for this walk.

Please follow the waymarked path carefully, especially on Coity Mountain as it is dangerous to wander freely on the mountainside in this area. There are four busy main road crossings, so please be mindful of the traffic at these locations. Please shut all gates behind you and follow the Country Code.

**WARNING: The path crosses countryside in which there are a number of known hazards, and others could be expected. The path itself has been checked and is safe, but it is dangerous to stray off the path, in particular the stretch over the Coity Mountain. It is essential that children are kept in view and on the path at all times.**



Begin at the **Whistle Road Car Park**, just off the **B4248, Garn Road (OS grid ref SO 230103)**. Turn left as you leave the car park and walk along the Whistle Road, passing the Whistle Inn and then, on your left, after 25 metres you come to a metal gate and a ladder stile over the dry stone wall. Climb the stile and go along the brideway (heading south down the valley). You may have to walk through a group of ponies that are sometimes kept in this and other fields.



Follow the track between the dry stone walls, constructed in the 17th Century. **Waun Mary Gunter Farm** is over to your right, west of the path. Mary Gunter was a member of the important Gunter family of Abergavenny in the 1600's and was persecuted for her Catholic faith. Her farm and surrounding fields were confiscated. Climb the stile to cross the field, over more wooden stiles to reach a derelict farmhouse. Passing the farmhouse on your left, climb the right hand stile, and continue down the track to reach the road.

As you reach the road you will see the railway track and sidings of the **Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway Company**. The original railway was opened to traffic in December 1869 and was initially known as 'The Blaenavon & Brynmawr Branch of the London & North Western Railway', becoming fully

operational in 1870. The railway company keeps a number of old steam and diesel engines here, and boasts the highest standard gauge of preservation in Wales. For a detour take a left off the route. Train rides may be taken at weekends and bank-holidays during the warmer months. Telephone (01495) 792263 for further details.

Continuing with the route, turn right and follow the road. Another detour may be taken to visit **Big Pit: National Coal Museum** (follow the signs). Big Pit is a real colliery and produced coal on a large scale from 1880 until it closed in 1980. It offers access for the public to underground workings between mid February and November and is well worth a visit. Telephone (01495) 790311 for further details.

Resume the walk and follow the waymarks along the concrete track from Big Pit, to pass **Forge Pond** on your left. Bear left, walk down to enter Forgeside and pass the **Old Forge**, on your left. The Forge, built mid 19th Century of red brick with a slate roof, is where the method of converting pig iron made from phosphoric ore into basic steel pioneered by Sidney Gilchrist Thomas, was used. On the right are the terraced cottages built for workers which still have their original name of **'C Row'**. Rows C to E still exist and are a good example of early industrial housing. At the end of C Row, turn right into Forge Road. Pause here to look to your left and you will see **Coity House**.

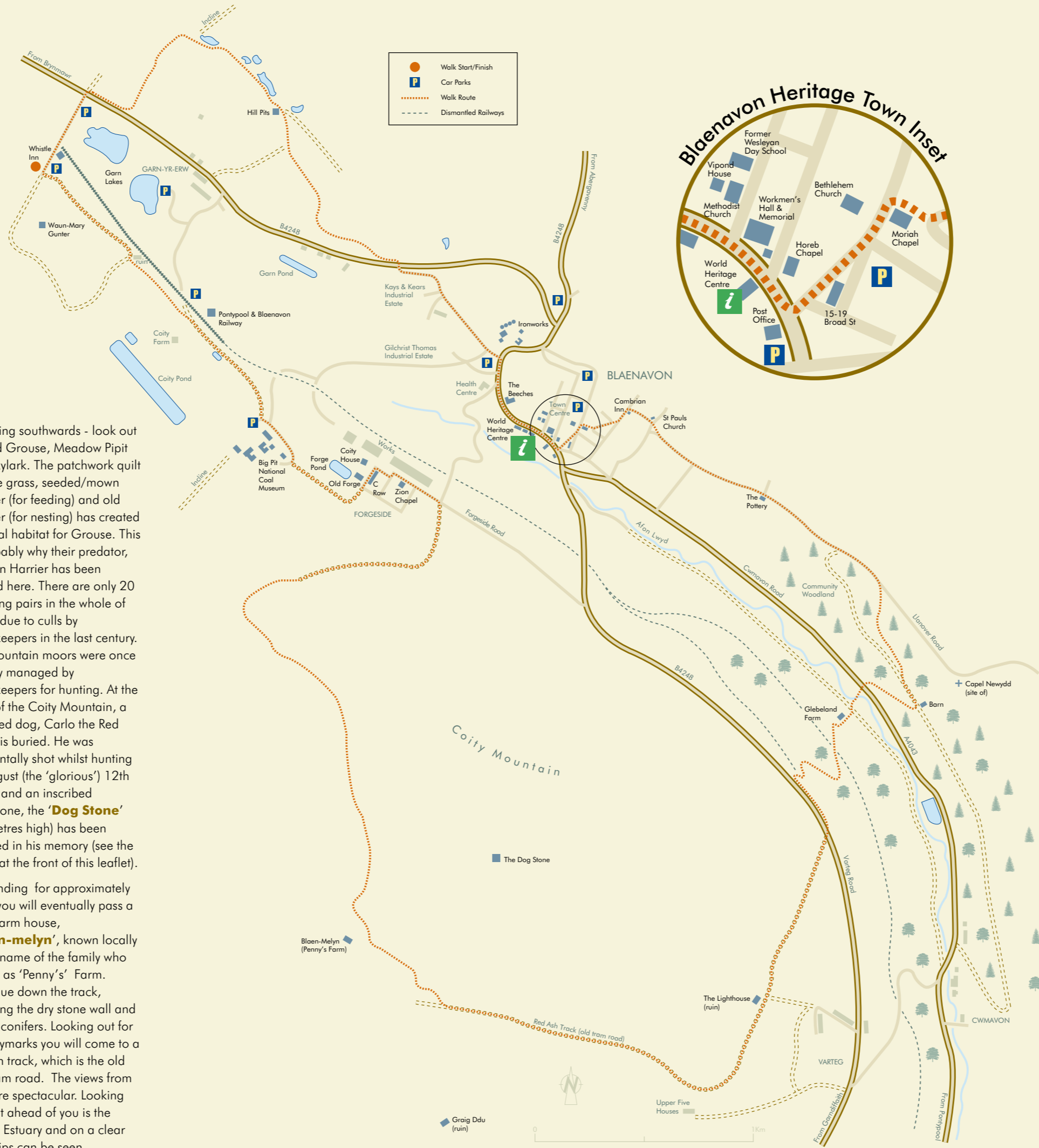
It is a Grade II Listed Building, and is thought to have been built around 1860 for the works manager when Forgeside was first developed. Continue along Forge Road. Doncaster's works is on your left running parallel to the road. The works now make high precision alloys for the aerospace industry and is a lasting legacy of the old iron industry. Passing modern housing on your right you come to a junction where Forge Road bends first left, then right, before straightening up again. Following Forge Road you will pass the **Zion Baptist Chapel** built 1874, Listed Grade II. Pass Oxford Terrace, Clapham Terrace and the former **Forgeside Inn** (now a private dwelling) turning right to go through the gate on to the brideway opposite the bus stop.

Walk up the track passing a recently closed **Old Drift Mine**, once a property called Highmeadow, bearing round to the right up onto the open common. A small stream now runs down the route making it wet and muddy underfoot. Follow the boundary on your right until you reach the remains of the walls of a building once known as Coity Canol (Middle Coity). Keeping the ruins to your right follow the track towards some more old stone walls (the remains of Coity Mawr cottages) and then crossing over a wide level track, follow the steep path as it ascends to the top of the ridge. You are now 650 metres or 2000 feet above sea level! Follow the waymark posts which take you along the path, over the Coity Mountain.

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Travelling southwards - look out for Red Grouse, Meadow Pipit and Skylark. The patchwork quilt of bare grass, seeded/mown heather (for feeding) and old heather (for nesting) has created an ideal habitat for Grouse. This is probably why their predator, the Hen Harrier has been spotted here. There are only 20 breeding pairs in the whole of Wales due to culls by gamekeepers in the last century. The mountain moors were once entirely managed by gamekeepers for hunting. At the peak of the Coity Mountain, a favoured dog, Carlo the Red Setter, is buried. He was accidentally shot whilst hunting on August (the 'glorious') 12th 1864, and an inscribed headstone, the **'Dog Stone'** (2½ metres high) has been installed in his memory (see the photo at the front of this leaflet).

Descending for approximately 1Km, you will eventually pass a white farm house, **'Blaen-melyn'**, known locally by the name of the family who own it, as 'Penny's' Farm. Continue down the track, following the dry stone wall and line of conifers. Looking out for the waymarks you will come to a red ash track, which is the old rail/tram road. The views from here are spectacular. Looking straight ahead of you is the Severn Estuary and on a clear day ships can be seen.



Over to your right on the side of Twyn Ddu mountain, are the ruins of **Graig Ddu**. Built between late 17th and early 18th Century, it was inhabited until 1963 and has served the community both as a chapel and a public house. It has been the inspiration for the historical novelist Marguerite Shaw to pen 'We Shall Sing Again' and 'Shall We Meet Again'.



Turning left and following the red ash track for 1Km to a cattle grid, turn to look behind you, and high up on Coity Mountain, (to the right) the **'Dog Stone'** can be seen. Continue on past the cattle grid down the track on the left there is a derelict stone building called **'The Lighthouse'**. The origin of the name is ambiguous. Some say it is so called because miners lamps for the pit were stored here. Others say the name comes from many years ago when, lit up, it was able to be seen for miles around, like a light house!

Continue, passing historic spoil tips on the left, and go over another cattle grid, passing a field on your right where Shetland Ponies are occasionally to be seen. The track then changes underfoot to a concrete road taking you past a covered reservoir on your left. Carry on down to join **Varteg Road** and cross here, being careful of the traffic. Approximately 300 metres further along on the right you will come to a brideway signpost. Follow the brideway down the bank to a stile and gate. Climb the stile and follow the track to a way-marked post. Turn right here and follow the zig-zag path into the beech

woodland. Continue to follow the path through the wood carefully following waymarks until you reach the former mineral railway line. Cross the old mineral railway line (which is now part of the National Cycle Network), and head toward **Glebeland Farm**. Passing the farm on your left, go through the gate and cross the field to the next gate. Follow the track and cross the bridge over the Afon Lwyd to **Cwmavon Road**. Cross the road carefully. Go through a gate and follow the forest track up through **Blaenavon Community Woodland** Eventually you will come to an old barn, once used as a camping barn but now hosts environmental education activities. This is an ideal spot to take a rest. With the barn in front of you follow the track to the left, you reach a footpath on the right. Take this path and walk up through the pine wood until you reach **Llanover Road**.

From here you may make a detour to the site of the remains of **Capel Newydd**, by turning right and walking approximately



0.5 Km up the road. The site is marked by an iron cross. Almost certainly built in the 16th Century, the Chapel was used in the summer months up to 1861. It had a view of all the valley up to Garn-yr-erw and would have been visible by every house and homestead in the area.

Back on the walk, passing Blaenavon Community Woodland on the left, continue down Llanover Road. You will walk past some residential properties passing **'The Pottery'** public house. Another

0.5 Km along, you will pass allotments on the left. Continuing your downward descent you will come to a fork in the road. Take the right hand fork and **St. Paul's Church** will be on your right. Built in 1893, St. Paul's was built out of the original stone taken from the Capel Newydd site. Pass St. Paul's Church and carry straight on. Ahead of you, between a



conifer hedge on your left and Brookside on your right, is Bryn Terrace. Walk up Bryn Terrace to the junction where the **Cambrian Inn** public house is situated on the corner.

Turn left into **Hill Street** and proceed down it, stopping where the road curves to the left (at approx. Nos. 56-58 Hill Street). Cross over the road to the bollards to approach **Cross Street**. Go through the bollards, veering to the left to continue down Cross Street. After a short walk, passing three turnings on the right, turn right into **George Street**. On the left is an old school room (now Hawkins Corn Stores) which is constructed of original rubble stone with dressed stone quoins and slate roof. It was a later addition to the Moriah Chapel on Broad Street. Descend the steps ahead of you and turn left into **Broad Street**. The yellow painted **Blaenavon Evangelical Moriah Chapel**, on your left, was opened in 1888 and is a Grade II Listed Building.

A few paces along Broad Street, lookina across the road to



Bethlehem Court, you will find the

**Bethlehem Congregational Church**. Broad Street also contains Grade II Listed Buildings at numbers **15-19** which represent well preserved



19th Century shops. Walk about 20 metres along Broad Street to pass the Market Tavern and then cross the road, taking the right hand fork ahead of you into Ivor Street. Walk down Ivor Street past Ivor Gardens to the junction where the Co-op building is situated on the corner. The **Post Office** building is across the



road, built in 1937 (Listed Grade II) and still contains its original post office clock. Turn right and go up **Church Road**. You will pass the **Horeb Baptist Chapel** on your right which opened in 1863 and is Listed Grade II.



The Chapel's design is unusual because it was built along the lines of an industrial engine house. The inside is particularly beautiful and worth a visit.

Adjacent to Horeb Chapel is the **War Memorial**, built in 1931 in Art Deco style, and the **Workmen's Hall & Institute**, built in 1894, which are both Listed Grade II.



Interestingly, the Institute was built using subscriptions raised from the workmen themselves. Opposite on the left is **St. Peter's Church**. It was opened for worship in 1805 and is Listed Grade II\*. The church has historical associations with the early ironworks community at Blaenavon. It has the original cast iron font, designed to resemble stone which is unique in the British Isles. The south side of the church's graveyard contains a group of five listed historically important tombstones. The heavily tooled stone chest tombs have unusual cast iron lids. The graves include those of Thomas Deakin, mineral agent to the Ironworks and Samuel Hopkins, a proprietor of the Ironworks. Behind the Workman's Hall are other buildings of interest: the **Park Street Methodist Church** which has a circular stained glass window; **Vipond House** and the old **Wesleyan Day School**.



The former **St. Peter's School** is situated further up Church Road on the left. It is in the Neo-Gothic style and Listed Grade II\*. Further along is the Infants School also Listed Grade II. The school which now houses the **Blaenavon World Heritage Centre**, was founded in 1816 by Sarah Hopkins in memory of her brother Samuel Hopkins. This was the first purpose built school to be financed by an industrialist. It is the oldest



known ironworks school in Wales and used a pioneering method of elementary education, known as 'the Madras school'.

Continuing up Church Road, the cream painted building on the right, set in its own grounds is **'The Beeches'** Nursing Home. This used to be called 'Ty Mawr' (Big House). Behind the main wall there is an unusual stone entrance which was used to facilitate access to the house. It was built around 1800 by Samuel Hopkins, and is late Georgian architecture. Built as a family residence, it was eventually converted into a hospital by the local medical society, into which workers paid a subscription, pre-empting the national health service.

Around the bend on the brow of the hill, **Blaenavon Ironworks** can be seen. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is presently being restored by CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments) and includes Grade I and II Listed Buildings. The Ironworks is probably the best preserved example of an 18th Century ironworks in Western Europe. It has the most complete example of a water balance tower in



Wales, and remains of the iron hoist survive. The water balance was used to lift iron and raw materials in trams between the furnace tops and the yard area below. It was built in 1839 as part of a modernisation programme by James Ashwell, managing director of the Blaenavon Iron & Coal Company. The Ironworks site is open to the public from April to October. Telephone (01495) 792615 for further details.

Turn left into **Estate Road** and follow the road up along the pavement on the left hand side for safety. Continue for approximately 0.5 Km until you reach the junction at the top. Turn left, proceed to the bus stop and cross **Garn Road** (B4246), with care. A signpost will direct you onto a tarmac track ahead, which changes to a fenced track. This unimposing dirt track used to be the main road to Blaenavon. Continue along the fenced track which takes you through gates to the naturally revegetated spoil tips. Make sure to keep on the well defined footpath, all the while looking out for waymarks. The views to the left are of Big Pit and Coity Mountain. En route look out for Sphagnum Moss. On the right there is a Molinia Grass bog to be seen, identified by its brownish colour. The tips underfoot originate from many historic workings of coal and iron and are considered to be an important feature of Blaenavon's industrial heritage.

You will eventually reach the stone chimney at the former **Hill Pits**. They were opened in 1844 and supplied iron ore and coal for the Ironworks at Blaenavon.

They were linked by a tram road. The six metres high stack is built of roughly dressed stone, on a chamfered stone plinth with dressed quoins. Walk round the



stack and you will pass by old industrial ponds which supplied water to the boilers at Hill Pits. Please note that in wet weather the track can become very muddy. Follow the waymarked track and eventually begin to walk downhill for ¾Km until you meet the main road. Take care, cross the road and go through a metal gate and over a footbridge, then taking the path as it bears right you will return to the start point at the Whistle Road Car Park. On your left, looking southwards, is **Garn Lakes**.



Reclaimed via open cast coal recovery, Garn Lakes was opened as an amenity area in July 1999. The conservation pond has a resident and visiting population of wild birds, including Lapwing, Snipe, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Coot, Dipper, Reed Bunting, Stonechat, Skylark, Linnet, Yellow Hammer, Willow Warbler, Windchat, Wheatear and Whitethroat. There are numerous paths around the lakes and the area is well worth a visit.

## TIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL BLAENAFON

### COD CEFN GWLAD

Mae hanes gweithgarwch diwydiannol yr ardal yn dyddio'n ôl i'r unfed ganrif ar bymtheg, ond datblygiad y Gwaith Haearn ym 1789 a arweiniodd at dwf y dref. Y gwaith oedd y gwaith haearn pwrpasol cyntaf yng Nghymru i gynnwys nifer o ffwrneisiau. Erbyn 1796 y gwaith haearn oedd yr ail gynhyrchydd haearn mwyaf yng Nghymru, gydag allbwn blyneddol o 5,460 o dunelli.

Mae nifer o'r Adeiladau Rhestredig sydd i'w gweld ar y llwybr yn gysylltiedig ag esblygiad treftadaeth ddiwydiannol y trefi. Mae nifer o lyfrau Alexander Cordell, yn seiliedig ar y dref ei hun; yr enwocaf wrth gwrs yw 'Rape of the Fair Country'.

Ysgogwyd y twf pan agorwyd Gwaith Forgeside, Pwll Mawr a'r rheilffyrdd i Frynawr a Phont-y-pŵl yng nghanol y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

Mae pwysigrwydd treftadaeth y dref a'i amgylchoedd fel adnodd o Bwysigrwydd Bydeang yn amlwg yn y 46 o Adeiladau Rhestredig, wyth Heneb Gofrestredig, ei dynodiad yng nghofrestr Tirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol Eithriadol yng Nghymru a'i dynodiad fel Ardal Gadwraeth ym 1984.

Cafodd Tirwedd Ddiwydiannol Blaenafon ei gosod ar restr Safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd, UNESCO yn Nhachwedd 2000.

## TIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL BLAENAFON

### COD CEFN GWLAD

Mwynhewch gefn gwlad a pharchwch ei fywyd a'i waith;

Gwylwch rhag unrhyw risg o dân;

Caewch bob clwyd;

Cadwch eich cŵn dan reolaeth, ar dennyn os yn bosib;

Cadwch at lwybrau cyhoeddus sy'n croesi tir fferm;

Defnyddiwch glwydi a chamfeydd i groesi ffensys, llwyni a waliau;

Gadewch lonydd i dda byw, cnydau a pheiriannau;

Ewch â'ch sbwriel adref;

Helpwch gadw dŵr yn lân;

Gwarchodwch fywyd gwyllt, planhigion a choed;

Cymerwch ofal arbennig ar ffyrdd gwledig;

Peidiwch â gwneud sŵn diangen.

Mae taflenni teithiau cerdded eraill ar gyfer Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ac ardaloedd eraill yn Nhorfaen ar gael. Am wybodaeth bellach cysylltwch â Chanolfan Groeso Blaenafon ar 01495 742333 [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)



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Welsh Assembly Government

Cefnogir gan Raglen  
Blaenau'r Cymoedd

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# TIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL BLAENAFON

Taith Gylch

Tua 17Km 10½ Milltir / 5 - 5½ Awr /  
Cymedrol i Egniöl



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## **Y DIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL TAITH GYLCH SY'N CYNWYS RHAN O DIRWEDD DDIWYDIANNOL BLAENAFON, SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD**

**Tua 17Km (10½ Milltir / 5 - 5½ Awr / Cymedrol i egniol**

**Dyfarwyd statws Safle Treftadaeth y  
Byd i Dirwedd Ddiwydiannol  
Blaenafon gan UNESCO (United  
Nations Educational Science &  
Cultural Organisation) ym  
mis Tachwedd 2000.**

Cafodd hefyd ei chynnwys ar  
gofrestr Tirweddau o  
Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol  
Eithriadol Cymru, a gyhoeddir  
gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru  
(CCC), Henebion Hanesyddol  
Cymru (CADW) a Chyngor  
Rhyngwladol ar Henebion a  
Safleoedd (ICOMOS UK).



O ran datblygiad, Blaenafon yw un o'r  
enghreifftiau mwyaf sylweddol ym  
mlynnyddoedd ffurfiannol y Chwyldro  
Diwydiannol yng Nghymru. O fewn  
ychydig ddegawdau fe newidiodd y  
dirwedd o fod yn weundir prin ei  
boblogaeth, i gymunedau diwydiannol  
a oedd yn hollol nodweddiadol o fywyd  
trefol. Wrth i ddiwydiant ehangu fe  
gynyddodd y tai a'r strydoedd hyd nes  
yn y diwedd fe wnaethant uno i greu un  
dref.

Mae nifer o Adeiladau Rhestredig  
Gradd I, II a II\* i'w gweld ar y daith.  
Mae'r graddio yn golygu eu bod nhw o  
ddiddordeb pensaernïol neu  
hanesyddol arbennig fel y penderfynir gan  
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru.

Cafodd y daith ei llunio i dwys ymwelwyr o  
gwmpas rhan o safle Treftadaeth y Byd er  
mwyn gweld rhai o'r nodweddion treftadaeth  
sy'n cyfrannu at ei gydnabyddiaeth fel  
treftadaeth ddiwydiannol eithriadol. Mae'r  
daith hefyd yn caniatáu dyn i weld yr  
amrywiaeth eang o dirweddau amrywiol  
naturiol ac o wneuthuriad dyn, a phrofi'r  
golygfeydd ysblennydd dros y dyffryn. Mae'r  
llwybr tua 17Km (10½ milltir) o hyd yn cymryd  
rhyw 5 - 5½ awr i'w gwblhau.



Arwydd melyn yw'r arwyddbost sydd wedi ei  
farcio â rhif y daith cylch. Mae'r llwybr yn  
cynnwys llwybrau mewn lleoliadau agored a  
all fod yn wlyb drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Er mwyn  
eich diogelwch eich hun gwnewch yn siŵr fod  
gennych ddillad cynnes, gwrth-ddŵr. Mae  
esgidiau cerdded cryf yn hanfodol ar gyfer y  
daith hon.

Dilynwch y llwybr yn ofalus, yn enwedig ar  
Fynydd Coety gan ei bod hi'n beryglus iawn i  
grwydro'r rhydd ar ochr y mynydd yn yr ardal  
hon. Mae yna bedair lle i groesi ar y ffordd  
fawr ond maen nhw'n brysur iawn, felly  
byddwch yn ofalus o'r traffig yn y manau hyn.  
Caewch bob clwyd ar eich hôl a pharchwch  
Reolau Cefn Gwlad.

**RHYBUDD: Mae'r llwybr yn croesi  
ardaloedd gwledig sy'n agored i nifer  
o beryglon, a gellid disgwyl eraill.**

**Mae'r llwybr ei hun yn ddiogel, ond  
gall crwydro oddi ar y llwybr fod yn  
beryglus, yn enwedig yr hyd sy'n  
ymestyn dros Fynydd Coety. Mae'n  
hanfodol eich bod yn cadw llygad ar  
blant a'u bod yn cadw ar y llwybr bob  
amser.**



**Dechreuwch ym Maes Parcio Heol Whistle, ychydig oddi ar y B4248, Heol y Garn (Cyf. grid OS -SO 230103). Trowch i'r chwith wrth i chi adael y maes parcio a cherddwch ar hyd Whistle Road, gan fynd heibio tafarn y 'Whistle Inn' ac yna, ar eich chwith, ar ôl 25 metr fe ddewch i glwyd metel a chamfa ysgol dros y wal gerrig sych. Dringwch y gamfa ac ewch ar hyd y llwybr ceffylau (tua'r de i lawr y dyffryn). Efallai bydd yn rhaid i chi gerdded drwy grŵp o ferlod a gedwir weithiau yn y cae hwn a chaeau eraill.**



Dilynwch y trac rhwng y waliau cerrig sych a adeiladwyd yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Tua'r dde fe welwch **Fferm Waun Mary Gunter** i'r gorllewin o'r llwybr. Roedd Mary Gunter yn aelod o'r enwog deulu Gunter o'r Fenni ar ddiwedd y 1600au - cafodd ei herlid oherwydd ei ffydd Gatholig. Cymerwyd ymaith ei fferm a'i chaeau amgylchynol. Dringwch y gamfa ar draws y cae, dros fwy o gamfeydd pren i gyrraedd ffermdy segur. Gan fynd heibio'r ffermdy ar eich chwith, dringwch y gamfa ar y dde ac ewch i lawr y trac tan i chi gyrraedd yr heol.

Wrth i chi gyrraedd yr heol fe welwch reilffordd a lein aros **Cwmni Rheilffordd Pont-y-pŵl a Blaenafon**. Agorwyd y rheilffordd wreiddiol yn Rhagfyr 1869 o dan yr enw cyntaf sef 'Cangen Blaenafon a Brynmawr o Reilffordd Llundain a'r Gogledd Orllewin', ac erbyn 1870 roedd y rheilffordd yn hollol weithredol. Mae'r cwmni rheilffordd yn cadw



nifer o hen injans ager a disel yma, ac o ran cadwraeth, maent yn brolio lled rheilffordd o'r safon uchaf yng Nghymru. Os ydych am ddargyfeirio, trowch i'r chwith oddi ar y llwybr. Cewch daith ar drên ar benwythnosau a gwyliau banc yn ystod y misoedd cynhesaf. Ffoniwch (01495) 792263 am fanylion pellach.

Gan barhau ar y llwybr, trowch i'r dde a dilynwch y ffordd. Gallwch ddargyfeirio ac ymweld â **Phwll Mawr: Amgueddfa Lofaal Genedlaethol Cymru**

(dilynwch yr arwyddion).

Pwll glo go iawn yw Pwll Mawr a fu unwaith yn cynhyrchu glo ar raddfa fawr o 1880 tan iddo gau ym 1980. Mae'n cynnig cyfleoedd gwerth chweil i'r cyhoedd weld yr hyn a arferai fynd ymlaen dan y ddaear, a hynny rhwng canol mis Chwefror a Thachwedd. Ffoniwch (01495) 790311 am fanylion pellach.

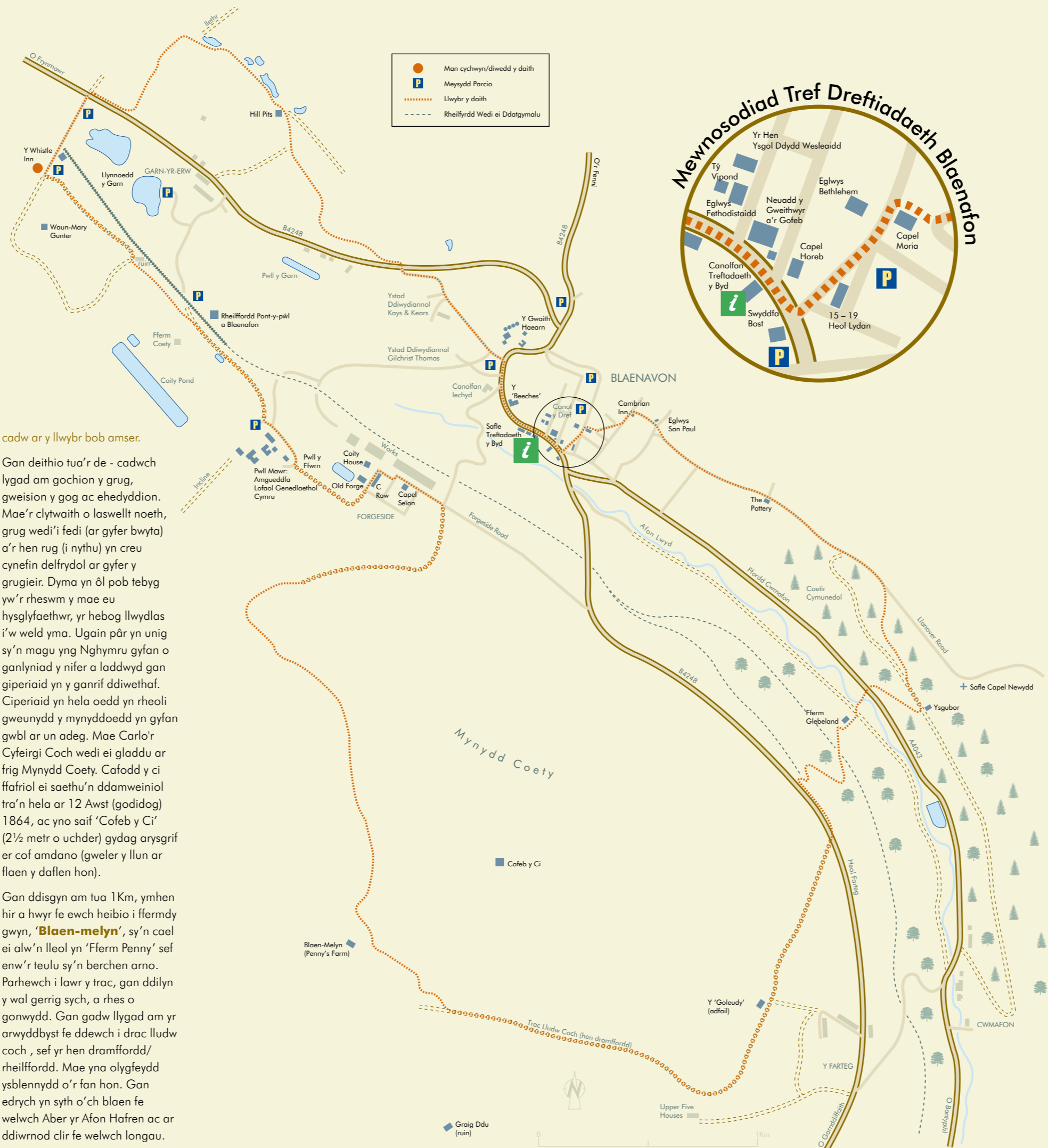
Ailgydiwch yn y daith a dilynwch yr arwyddbyst ar hyd y trac concrit o Bwll Mawr, heibio i **Forge Pond** (Pwll y Ffwrn) ar eich chwith. Gan gadw i'r chwith ewch i lawr i Forgeside gan fynd heibio'r **Hen Efail**, ar eich chwith. Yr Efail, a adeiladwyd o friciau coch a tho llech yng nghanol y ddeunawfed ganrif oedd y man lle bu Sidney Gilchrist Thomas yn defnyddio dull o drawsnewid haearn crai a wnaethpwyd o fwyn ffosfforig i ddur cyffredin. Ar y dde fe welwch maent yn cael eu galw yn ôl yr enw gwreiddiol **'C Row'**. Mae Row C i E yn bodoli heddiw, ac maent yn enghreifftiau da o dai cynnar. Ar ddiwedd 'C Row',

trowch i'r dde i mewn i Forge Road. Arhoswch yma am ychydig, gan edrych tua'r chwith, ac fe welwch **Coity House**.

Dyma Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II, a gofodd ei adeiladu yn ôl pob sôn, tua 1860 ar gyfer rheolwr y gwaith, pan ddatblygwyd Forgeside yn gyntaf. Ewch ar hyd Forge Road. Mae gwaith Doncaster ar eich ochr chwith yn dde a dilynwch y ffordd. Gallwch ddargyfeirio ac ymweld â **Phwll Mawr: Amgueddfa Lofaal Genedlaethol Cymru**

Cerddwch i fyny'r trac sy'n mynd heibio **Hen Gloddfa Ddrift**, a fu unwaith yn eiddo o'r enw Highmeadow, gan ddilyn y ffordd tua'r dde, i fyny i'r comin agored. Mae nant fach yn llifo i lawr y llwybr, felly'n ei wneud yn wlyb a mwldy dan droed. Dilynwch y ffin ar eich ochr dde tan i chi gyrraedd adfeilion waliau'r adeilad a fu unwaith yn 'Coety Canol'. Gan gadw'r adfeilion ar eich ochr dde, dilynwch y trac tuag at fwy o hen waliau cerrig (adfeilion bythynnod Coety Mawr) ac yna wedi croesi dros drac llydan, dilynwch y llwybr serth wrth iddo esgyn i fyny'r crib. Rydych nawr 650 metr neu 2000 o droedfeddi uwchlaw lefel y môr! Dilynwch yr arwyddbyst a fydd yn eich tywys ar hyd y llwybr, dros Fynydd Coety.

**RHYBUDD:** Mae'r llwybr yn croesi ardaloedd gwledig sy'n agored i nifer o beryglon, a gellid disgwyl eraill. Mae'r llwybr ei hun yn ddiogel, ond gall crwydro oddi ar y llwybr fod yn beryglus, yn enwedig yr hyd sy'n ymestyn dros Fynydd Coety. Mae'n hanfodol eich bod yn cadw llygad ar blant o'u bod yn



cadw ar y llwybr bob amser.

Gan deithio tua'r de - cadwch llygad am gochion y grug, gweision y gog ac ehedyddion. Mae'r clytwaith a laswellt noeth, grug wedi'i fedi (ar gyfer bwyta) a'r hen rug (i nythu) yn creu cynefin delfrydol ar gyfer y grugieir. Dyma yn ôl pob tebyg yw'r rheswm y mae eu hysglyfaethwr, yr hebog llwydas i'w weld yma. Ugain pâr yn unig sy'n magu yng Nghymru gyfan o ganlyniad y nifer a laddwyd gan giperiaid yn y ganrif ddiwethaf. Ciperiaid yn hela oedd yn rheoli gweunydd y mynyddoedd yn gyfan gwbl ar un adeg. Mae Carlo'r Cyfeirgi Coch wedi ei gladdu ar frig Mynydd Coety. Cafodd y ci ffatriol ei saethu'n ddamweiniol tra'n hela ar 12 Awst (godidog) 1864, ac yno saif 'Cofeb y Ci' (2½ metr o uchder) gydag arysgrif er cof amdano (gweler y llun ar flaen y daflen hon).

Gan ddisgyn am tua 1Km, ymhen hir a hwyr fe ewch heibio i ffermdy gwyn, **'Blaen-melyn'**, sy'n cael ei alw'n lleol yn 'Fferm Penny' sef enw'r teulu sy'n berchen arno. Parhewch i lawr y trac, gan ddilyn y wal gerrig sych, a rhes o gonwydd. Gan gadw llygad am yr arwyddbyst fe ddewch i drac lludw coch, sef yr hen dramffordd/rheilffordd. Mae yna olygfeydd ysbennnydd o'r fan hon. Gan edrych yn syth o'ch blaen fe welwch Aber yr Afon Hafren ac ar ddiwrnod clir fe welwch longau.

Ar fynydd Twyn Du fe welwch adfeilion **Graig Ddu**. Cafodd ei adeiladu rhwng diwedd yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg a dechrau'r ddeunawfed ganrif. Bu'n breswylfa tan 1963, ac ar un adeg bu'n gwasanaethu'r gymuned fel capel a thŷ tafarn. Dyma oedd ffynhonnell ysbrydoliaeth y nofelydd Marguerite Shaw, awdur 'We Shall Sing Again' a 'Shall We Meet Again'



Gan droi i'r chwith a dilyn y trac lludw coch am 1Km hyd nes i chi gyrraedd grid gwartheg, trowch i edrych y tu ôl i chi, ac fe welwch yno, yn uchel ar Fynydd Coety, (tua'r dde) y **'Cofeb y Ci'**. Ewch yn eich blaen heibio i'r grid gwartheg, i lawr y trac ar yr ochr chwith mae yna adfeilion adeilad cerrig o'r enw **'Y Goleudy'**. Mae tarddiad yr enw braidd yn amwys. Dywed rhai bod yr enw yn deillio o'r ffaith mai dyma le arferai mwynwyr y pwll gadw eu lampau. Dywed eraill bod yr enw'n deillio o gyfnod flynnyddoedd yn ôl pan gawsai ei oleuo; roedd modd ei weld o filltiroedd, yn union fel goleudy!

Ewch heibio'r tomenydd sbwriel hanesyddol ar y chwith, a thros rid gwartheg arall, heibio i gae ar eich ochr dde lle gwelir Merlod Shetland ar brydiau. Yna, mae'r trac yn newid i ffordd goncrit dan droed ac yn eich tywys heibio cronfa ddŵr gorchuddiedig ar eich chwith. Ewch yn eich blaen i lawr i **Heol y Farteg** gan groesi yma, a bod yn ofalus iawn o'r traffig. Ymhen tua 300 metr pellach ar eich ochr dde fe ddewch i arwyddbost llwybr ceffylau. Dilynwch y llwybr ceffylau i lawr yr ymyl tan i chi gyrraedd camfa

a chlywd. Dringwch y gamfa a dilynwch y trac hyd nes i chi gyrraedd arwyddbost arall. Trowch i'r dde fan yma gan ddilyn y llwybr igam ogam i'r coetir ffawydd. Dilynwch y llwybr yn ofalus drwy'r goedwig, gan ddilyn yr arwyddbyst tan i chi gyrraedd yr hen linell rheilffordd. Croeswch yr hen linell reilffordd mwynau (sydd erbyn hyn yn rhan o'r Rhwydwaith Beicio Cenedlaethol), gan fynd tuag at **Fferm Glebeland**. Gan fynd heibio'r fferm ar eich ochr chwith, ewch drwy'r glwyd a chroesi'r cae i'r glwyd nesaf. Dilynwch y trac a chroesi'r bont dros yr Afon Lwyd i **Heol Cwmafon**. Croeswch y ffordd yn ddiogel. Ewch drwy glwyd a dilynwch drac y goedwig i fyny drwy **Goetir Cymunedol Blaenafon**. Ymhen hir a hwyr fe ddewch i hen ysgubor, a ddefnyddiwyd unwaith fel ysgubor wersylla ond sydd erbyn hyn yn gartref i nifer o weithgareddau addysg amgylcheddol. Dyma le delfrydol i gymryd hoe fach. Gyda'r ysgubor o'ch blaen a'r trac ar eich ochr chwith, fe gyrhaeddwch lwybr troed ar eich ochr dde. Dilynwch y llwybr hwn gan gerdded i fyny drwy'r goedwig pinwydd tan i chi gyrraedd **Llanover Road**.



O'r fan hon fe allwch ddargyfeirio i safle adfeilion **Capel Newydd**, drwy droi i'r dde a cherdded tua 0.5 Km i fyny'r ffordd. Mae yna groes haearn yn nodi'r safle. Defnyddiwyd y Capel, a adeiladwyd bron yn sicr yn yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg, adeg misoedd yr haf hyd at 1861. O'r man hwnnw roedd yna olygfa o'r dyffryn cyfan hyd at Garn-yr-erw, a byddai pob tŷ a thyddyn yn yr ardal yn medru ei weld.

Yn ôl ar y llwybr, gan fynd heibio Coetir Cymunedol Blaenafon ar y chwith, parhewch i ddilyn Llanover Road. Fe ewch heibio i rai eiddo preswyl a thŷ tafarn **'The Pottery'**. Ymlaen am 0.5 Km arall, fe ewch heibio rhandiroedd ar y chwith. Gan barhau i ddisgwyl i lawr fe ddewch at fforch yn yr heol. Cymerwch y fforch i'r dde ac fe welwch Eglwys St Paul ar eich



ochr dde. Adeiladwyd **Eglwys St Paul** ym 1893 o gerrig gwreiddiol a gymerwyd o safle Capel Newydd. Ewch ymlaen yn syth heibio i Eglwys St Paul. O'ch blaen fe welwch glawdd conwydden ar eich chwith a brookside ar eich ochr dde, yw Teras Bryn. Cerddwch i fyny'r teras i'r gyffordd lle welwch dŷ tafarn y **Cambrian Inn** ar y gornel.

Trowch i'r chwith i mewn i **Hill Street** ac ewch i lawr y stryd, gan oedi lle mae'r ffordd yn troi tuag at y chwith (ger Rhifau 56-58 Hill Street). Croeswch y ffordd at y pyst gan agosáu at **Cross Street**. Ewch drwy'r pyst, gan gadw at y chwith a pharhau i lawr Cross Street. Ar ôl taith fer, gan fynd heibio tri throed ar y dde, trowch i'r dde i mewn i **Stryd Siôr**. Ar y chwith fe welwch hen ystafell ysgol (Hawkins Corn Stores bellach) sydd wedi ei adeiladu o gerrig rwbel gwreiddiol, gyda chonglfeini nadd a tho llechi. Dyma oedd ychwanegiad diweddarach at Gapel Moreia ar Stryd Lydan. I lawr y grisiau o'ch blaen, a throwch i'r chwith i mewn i **Stryd Lydan**. Agorwyd



**Capel Efyngylaidd Moreia, Blaenafon**, ar y chwith, sydd wedi ei beintio'n felyn, ym 1888; mae'n Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II.



Ychydig gamau ar hyd Heol Lydan, gan edrych ar draws y ffordd tuag at y dde, at Lys Bethlehem, fe welwch **Eglwys Annibynnol Bethlehem**. Mae Stryd Lydan hefyd yn cynnwys Adeiladau Rhestredig Gradd II, sef rhifau **15 -19** sy'n enghreifftiau da o siopau o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Cerddwch am tua 20 metr ar hyd Heol Lydan, heibio i'r 'Market Tavern' gan groesi'r



ffordd, cymryd y ffordd tua'r dde o'ch blaen i mewn i Ivor Street. Cerddwch ar hyd Ivor Street heibio Ivor Gardens i'r gyffordd lle gwelwch adeilad y Co-op ar y gornel. Mae adeilad y **Swyddfa Bost** a adeiladwyd ym 1937 (Rhestredig Gradd II) yr ochr arall i'r ffordd, ac yno fe welwch gloc gwreiddiol y swyddfa bost. Trowch i'r dde ac ewch i fyny **Church**



**Street**. Ar eich ochr dde, fe ewch heibio Horeb, Capel y Bedyddwyr, Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II a agorwyd ym 1863.

Mae'r Capel braidd yn anarferol oherwydd cafodd ei adeiladau ar ffurf peiriandy diwydiannol. Mae'n wirioneddol hyfryd y tu mewn, ac yn haeddu ymwelid.

Ger Capel Horeb fe welwch **Gofeb Rhyfel**, a adeiladwyd ym 1931 mewn arddull Art Deco, a **Neuadd ac Institiwt y Gweithwyr**, a adeiladwyd ym 1894, y ddau yn Adeiladau



Rhestredig Gradd II. Yn ddiddorol iawn, defnyddiwyd arian y gweithwyr eu hunain i adeiladu'r Institiwt. Gyferbyn ar y chwith y mae **Eglwys San Pedr**. Agorwyd yr Eglwys ym 1805 ac mae'n Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II\*. Mae gan yr eglwys gysylltiad hanesyddol â chymuned gwaith haearn cynnar ym Mlaenafon. Mae ynddi'r fedyddfaen wreiddiol a wnaed o haearn bwrw a gynlluniwyd yn debyg i garreg, sy'n unigryw yn Ynysydd Prydain. Mae ochr ddeheuol mynwent yr eglwys yn cynnwys pum beddfaen hanesyddol bwysig. Mae gan y beddau cerrig trymion gaeadau anarferol o haearn bwrw. Ymhlith y beddau mae bedd Thomas Deakin, asiant mwynau yn y Gwaith Haearn, a Samuel Hopkins, perchennog y Gwaith haearn. Y tu ôl i Neuadd y Gweithwyr mae yna adeiladau eraill o ddiddordeb: **Eglwys Fethodistaidd Stryd y Parc** sydd â ffenestr wydr lliw, gron; **Vipond House** a'r hen **Ysgol Ddydd Wesleiaidd**.



Mae hen **Ysgol San Pedr** wedi ei lleoli ymhellach i fyny Church Road ar y chwith. Cafodd ei hadeiladu mewn arddull Neogothig, a'i rhestri'n Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II\*. Ymhellach ymlaen y mae'r Ysgol Fabanod sydd hefyd yn Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd II. Sefydlwyd yr ysgol sydd bellach yn gartref i **Ganolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon** ym 1816 gan Sarah Hopkins er cof am ei brawd Samuel Hopkins. Dyma'r



ysgol bwrpasol gyntaf a ariannwyd gan ddiwydiannwr. Dyma'r hynaf o ysgolion gwaith haearn y gwyddid amdani yng Nghymru a ddefnyddiodd dull newydd o addysg elfennol; galwyd hi'n Ysgol Madras'.

Gan barhau i fyny Church Road, gwelir adeilad lliw hufen ar y dde, ar ei dir ei hun, sef Cartref Nyrso'r 'Beeches'. Arferai gael ei alw'n 'Tŷ Mawr'. Y tu ôl i'r brif wal mae yna fynediad anghyffredin o gerrig a arferai fod yn fynedfa i'r tŷ. Cafodd ei adeiladu mewn arddull pensaernïaeth Sioraidd hwyr gan Samuel Hopkins ym 1800. Cafodd ei adeiladu'n wreiddiol fel cartref i'r teulu ac ymhen hir a hwyr cafodd ei droi'n ysbyty gan y gymdeithas feddygol leol; pan arferai'r gweithwyr dalu tuag ati, a hynny cyn y gwasanaeth iechyd cenedlaethol.

Ar ôl y tro, ar ael y bryn, fe welwch **Waith Haearn Blaenafon**. Mae'r safle hwn yn Heneb Gofrestredig sy'n cael ei hadfer gan CADW (Henebion Hanesyddol Cymru) ac yn cynnwys Adeiladau Rhestredig Gradd I a II. Y gwaith haearn yn ôl pob sôn yw'r enghraifft orau o waith haearn o'r ddeunawfed ganrif yng Ngorllewin Ewrop.



Ynddo, ceir yr enghraifft orau o dŵr cydbwysu dŵr yng Nghymru, ac mae gweddillion y teclyn codi haearn i'w weld o hyd. Defnyddiwyd y teclyn cydbwysu dŵr i godi haearn a nwyddau crai mewn dramiau rhwng wynebau'r ffrwnseis a'r iard islaw. Cafodd ei adeiladu ym 1839 fel rhan o raglen foderneiddio gan James Ashwell, rheolwr gyfarwyddwr Cwmni Haearn a Glo Blaenafon. Mae safle'r Gwaith Haearn yn agored i'r cyhoedd o Ebrill tan fis Hydref. Ffoniwch (01495) 792615 am fanylion pellach.

Trowch i'r chwith i mewn i **Estate Road** ac er diogelwch, dilynwch y ffordd i fyny ar hyd y palmant ar y chwith. Parhewch am tua 0.5Km tan i chi gyrraedd y gyffordd. Trowch i'r chwith, ewch ymlaen tan i chi gyrraedd y safle bws a chroesi Heol y Garn (B4246), gyda gofal. Bydd arwyddbost yn eich cyfeirio at y trac sydd o'ch blaen, sy'n newid i drac wedi ei ffensio. Ar un adeg, y trac cyffredin hwn oedd y ffordd fawr i Flaenafon. Parhewch ar hyd y trac sy'n eich tywys drwy glwydi i'r tomennydd sbwriel sydd bellach wedi aildyfu'n naturiol. Gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn cadw at y llwybr troed sydd wedi ei ddiffinio'n glir, tra'n cadw llygad am arwyddbyst. I'r chwith, ceir olygfeydd o Bwll Mawr a Mynydd Coety. Ar y ffordd, cadwch lygad am Fwsogl y Ffynhonnau. Ar y dde fe welwch gors Gwellt y Gweunydd, sydd o liw brown nodedig. Mae'r tomennydd dan droed yn deillio o weithfeydd glo a haearn hanesyddol ac fe'u hystyrir yn nodweddiadol pwysig o dreftadaeth ddiwydiannol Blaenafon.

Ymhen hir a hwyr fe gyrhaeddwyd simnai gerrig lle bu'r hyn a elwir yn **Hill Pits**. Fe'u hagorwyd ym 1844 gan gyflenwi mwyn haearn a glo i'r



Gwaith Haearn ym Mlaenafon. Roedd yna dramffordd yn eu cysylltu. Mae'r stac, chwe metr o uchder wedi ei adeiladu o gerrig nadd garw ar blinth cerrig siamffrog gyda chonglfeini nadd. Cerddwch o gwmpas y stac ac fe welwch hen byllau diwydiannol a arferai ddarparu dŵr i foeleri Hill Pits. Nodwch fod y trac medru bod yn fwdlyd iawn pan fydd hi'n bwrw glaw. Dilynwch yr arwyddbyst ar y trac a chyn bo hir fe ddechreuwch gerdded i lawr am ¾Km tan i chi gyrraedd yr heol fawr. Cymerwch ofal, croeswch yr heol ac ewch drwy glwyd metel a dros bompren, yna gan ddilyn y llwybr wrth iddo fynd tuag at y de, fe ddychwelwch at y man cychwyn ym Maes Parcio



Heol Chwiban. Ar eich chwith, gan edrych i gyfeiriad y de, fe welwch **Lynnoedd y Garn**.

Adenillwyd Llynnoedd y Garn, pan adferwyd glo brig, ac fe'u hagorwyd fel ardal amwynder yng Ngorffennaf 1999. Mae gan y pwll cadwraeth boblogaeth o adar gwyllt sy'n byw yno ac yn ymweld â'r lle, yn eu plith, y cornicyll, giach, coesgoch, y pibydd cyffredin, cotiar, trochwr, bras y gors, crec penddu'r eithin, ehedydd, llinos, melin yr eithin, y dryw wen, crec yr eithin, cynffonwen a bronwen y llwyn. Mae yna nifer o lwybrau o gwmpas y llynnoedd, ac argymhellir eich bod yn ymweld â'r ardal. parhad...