

# THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR

Circular Walk

Approx 5Km (3 miles)/ 1½ hours/  
moderate



## BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

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Approx 5Km (3 miles)/ 1½ hours/  
moderate

**This walk can start from four different car parks on the loop, their grid references are shown below within the route description and their locations are marked on the plan.**

Garn Lakes today is a lovely area of reclaimed and landscaped land once dominated by huge spoil heaps generated by the coal industry. (The pyramids of waste gave this area the nickname of "Little Egypt")

Starting at the Garn Lakes Car Park (SO 234 098)\* go through the motorcycle barrier onto the lakeside path; turn right and after about 150m, take the right hand path up the hill with the stream on your left. Continue on this path around the top lake, taking the second path on the left; this will take you up onto the road at the start of the cycle track. Those starting from the **Whistle Road Car Park** (SO 230 103) may wish to walk along the road to this point. Turn left, crossing over the old railway bridge that once spanned the 'London & North Western Railway' built in the 1860's. Now it bridges the Afon Lwyd in its early upper stage; the source of the river rises in the Waun Avon Bog (gwaun = moor, afon = river) less than a kilometre further behind you to the north-west. In 1944, a Handley-Page Halifax bomber crashed into this bog, all its crew managing to bail out before it hit the ground. They survived this experience and were revived by a cup of tea in the police station! Kestrels regularly hover and stoop over this area.

Continue past the **Whistle Inn**, which has an interesting collection of miners lamps; after about 120m turn left onto the bridleway which follows the line of an old stone walled track.



The remains of the tips looming above you on your right are now protected and preserved as part of the industrial legacy of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Over the left hand side of the valley are

the terraced houses of **Garn-yr-erw** (garn = cairn, erw = acre). Two of its demolished terraces were known as 'Black Ranks' because they had been painted in pitch!

Looking further over to Blaenavon Town you can see the remains of the early coal scourings and the tips from the many collieries of this valley. The names of

some of the pits were Coity, Hills, Garn, Milfraen, and Kays & Kears. As you round the bend, the wheel house of the **Big Pit: National Coal Museum** comes into sight. Look again to your left, and across the valley you should be able to make out the whitewashed 'Stack Square' cottages and the arched remains of the water balance tower at Blaenavon Ironworks. The balance was a water powered lift that was used to move trams of raw materials and finished iron up from and down to the Ironworks yard.

If you have time, stop for a few hours to wander around the **Big Pit**, taking in an underground tour, or just to pop into the restaurant situated in the old bathhouse for refreshments. A pit has been on this site for almost 200 years. The 'Big Pit' was sunk in the 1860's, its name is derived not from its depth but from a large elliptical (oval) shaft which at the time of its construction was the only shaft in the country wide enough to wind up two trams of coal side by side.



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Leaving Big Pit (or starting from the **Big Pit Car Park**, SO 238 089), follow the exit road down the hill and at the museum entrance (by the buried winding wheel), turn left, passing under the railway bridge, then immediately turn left again onto the cycle track. After 200m, bear right. You will see the big water tower again, this time rising above you on the left.

Along this route, keep your eyes open for Orchids, dainty blue Harebells, yellow Knapweeds and pink Ragged Robins. The Common



Harebell

Blue, Greyling and Tortoiseshell Butterflies can be seen on the knapweeds on warm days and Dippers and Wagtails can be spied 'swooping' along the line of the Afon Lwyd. If you are very observant, you may even spot the Golden Ringed Dragonfly, Britain's largest species of Dragonfly.

When you come to the cycleway barriers at the top of the track, turn right and continue back to the **Garn Lakes Car Park** or into **Garn Lakes** (go to \* at the start of the route description if you are continuing onto the other car parks).



Big Pit

## BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR

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)



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Welsh Assembly Government

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# TAITH WIB

Taith Gylch

Tua 5Km (3 milltir)/ 1½ awr /  
cymedrol



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



## TAITH GYLCH BLAENAFON

### TAITH WIB

Tua 5Km (3 milltir) / 1½ awr / cymedrol

**Gall y daith hon gychwyn o bedwar maes parcio gwahanol ar y daith gylch. Dengys eu cyfeirnodau grid isod yn y disgrifiad o'r daith ac mae eu lleoliadau'n ymddangos ar y cynllun isod.**

Heddiw, mae Llynnoedd y Garn yn ardal hyfryd o dir sydd wedi eu hadfer a'u tirlunio, ond ar un adeg roedd yng Nghymru tomenni sbwriel anferth a grëwyd gan y diwydiant glo. (Rhoddyd yr enw 'Little Egypt' i'r ardal oherwydd y pyramidiau mawr o wastraff)

Gan gychwyn ym Maes Parcio Llynnoedd y Garn (SO 234 098) ewch drwy'r rhwystr beicio a modur i'r llwybr sydd ger y llyn; trwch i'r dde, ac ar ôl tua 150m, dilynwrch y llwybr i'r dde i fyny'r bryn, gyda'r nant ar eich ochr chwith. Parhewch ar y llwybr hwn o gwmpas y llyn uchaf, gan ddilyn yr ail llwybr ar y chwith; bydd y llwybr hwn yn eich tywys i'r heol ar ddechrau'r trac beicio. Efallai bydd y rhai ohonoch sy'n cychwyn o **Faes Parcio Whistle Road** (SO 230 103) yn dymuno cerdded ar hyd yr heol. Trwch i'r chwith, gan groesi'r hen bont rheilffordd a fu unwaith yn croesi 'Rheilffordd Llundain a'r Gogledd Orllewin' a adeiladwyd yn y 1860au. Erbyn hyn, mae'n croesi'r Afon Lwyd ar ei uchaf. Mae'r afon yn tarddu yng Nghors Waun yr Afon, llai na chilomedr ymhellach y tu ôl i chi tua'r gogledd-orllewin.

Ym 1944, fe wnaeth awyren fomio 'Handly-Page Halifax' syrthio i'r gors hon; yn ffodus fe lwyddodd pob aelod o'r crïw ddianc cyn iddi daro'r ddaear. Ar ôl llwyddo i ddianc rhag y fath brofiad cawsant baned o de yng ngorsaf yr heddlu! Mae cudyllod cochion yn hofran yn aml dros yr ardal.



Erbyn hyn, mae gweddillion y tommeni sydd uwchlaw ar eich ochr dde yn cael eu gwarchod a'u diogelu fel rhan o etifeddiaeth ddiwydiannol Safle Treftadaeth y Byd

Blaenafon. Ar ochr chwith y dyffryn fe welwch dai teras **Garn-yr-erw**. 'Black Ranks' oedd yr enw a rhoddyd i ddau o'r terasau sydd bellach wedi cael eu dynchiwel, oherwydd eu bod nhw wedi cael eu peintio â phyg! Gan edrych ymhellach tuag at dref Flaenafon fe welwch adfeilion y sgwriadau

glo cynnar a thomenni nifer y pyllau glo yn y dyffryn. Coety, Hills, Garn, Milfraen, a Kays & Kears oedd enwau rhai o'r pyllau. Wrth i chi fynd o amgylch y tro, fe welwch olwyndy **Pwll Mawr: Amgueddfa Llofaol Cymru**. Edrychwch eto ar eich chwith, ac ar draws y dyffryn, fe ddylech weld bythynnod gwyngalch 'Stack Square' ac adfeilion bwaog y twr cydbwyo dŵr yng Ngwaith Blaenafon. Lfft â phŵer oed y twr cydbwyo a arferai symud dramiau o nwyddau crai a haearn gorffenedig i fyny ac i lawr o iard y gwaith haearn.

Os oes gennych amser, cymerwch awr neu ddwy i gwydro o amgylch Pwll Mawr, gan fanteisio ar y daith dan ddaear, neu beth am bicio i'r bwty sydd wedi ei leoli yn yr hen faddondy am luniaeth. Bu pwll ar y safle hwn am bron i 200 mlynedd. Agorwyd Pwll Mawr yn y 1860au. Cafodd ei enw, nid oherwydd ei ddfynder, ond oherwydd siaffit hirgrwn, yr unig siaffit o'i fath adeg ei hadeiladu, a oedd yn ddigon llydan i godi dwy dram o lo, ochr yn ochr.

## TAITH GYLCH BLAENAFON

### TAITH WIB

Gan adael Pwll mawr (neu gychwyn o **Faes Parcio Pwll Mawr**, SO 238 089), dilynwnch y ffordd allan i lawr y bryn ac wrth fynedfa'r amgueddfa (ger yr olwyn weindio sydd wedi ei chladdu), trowch i'r chwith, dan y bont rheilffordd, a throwch i'r chwith ar unwaith i ymuno â'r trac beicio. Ar ôl 200m, ewch tua'r dde. Fe welwch y tŵr dŵr mawr unwaith eto, y tro hwn, yn codi uwch eich pen ar yr ochr chwith.

Ar hyd y llwybr hwn, cadwch lygad am degeirianau, clych yr eos eiddil,



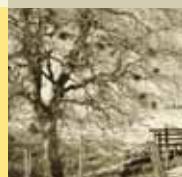
Pwll Mawr



Bwtsias y gog

y fadfelen a blodau'r brain sydd o liw pinc. Fe welwch leision cyffredin, penllwydion ac ieir bach amryliw (mathau o lo nnod byw) ar y fadfelen ar ddyddiau braf a chynnes, ac fe welwch drochwyr a siglennod yn 'plymio' ar hyd yr Afon Lwyd. Os ydych chi'n graff iawn, efallai y byddwch chi'n ddigon ffodus i weld gwas neidr eurdorchog, y rhwogaeth fwyaf ym Mhrydain.

Wrth i chi ddychwelyd i'r rhwystrau beiciau modur ar ben y trac, trowch i'r dde a pharhewch yn ôl i **Faes Parcio Llynnoedd y Garn** (ewch i ddechrau'r disgrifiad o'r llwybr os ydych am fynd i'r meysydd parcio eraill).



## TAITH GYLCH BLAENAFON

### TAITH WIB

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

Gwyliwrh rhag unrhyw risg o dâñ;

Caewch bob clwyd;

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

Cadwch at lwybrau cyhoeddus sy'n croesi tir fferm;

Defnyddiwrh 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 gwylt, planhigion a choed;

Cymerwch ofal arbennig ar ffyrdd gwledig;

Peidiwrh â gwneud sŵn diangen.

Mae taflenni teithiau cerdded eraill ar gyfer Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ac ardaloedd eraill yn Nhoraen 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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