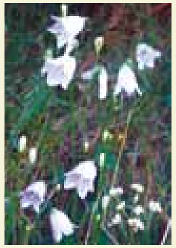
BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR

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.

Big Pit

Along this route, keep your eyes open for Orchids, dainty blue Harebells, yellow Knapweeds and pink Ragged Robins. The Common Blue, Greyling and Tortoishell 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, Britains largest species of Dragonfly.



Harebell

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).

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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Supported by the Heads of the Valleys Programme

©2009 Communications Design, TCBC

THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR

BLAENAVON
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
SAFLE TREFTADAETH BYD

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

www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR

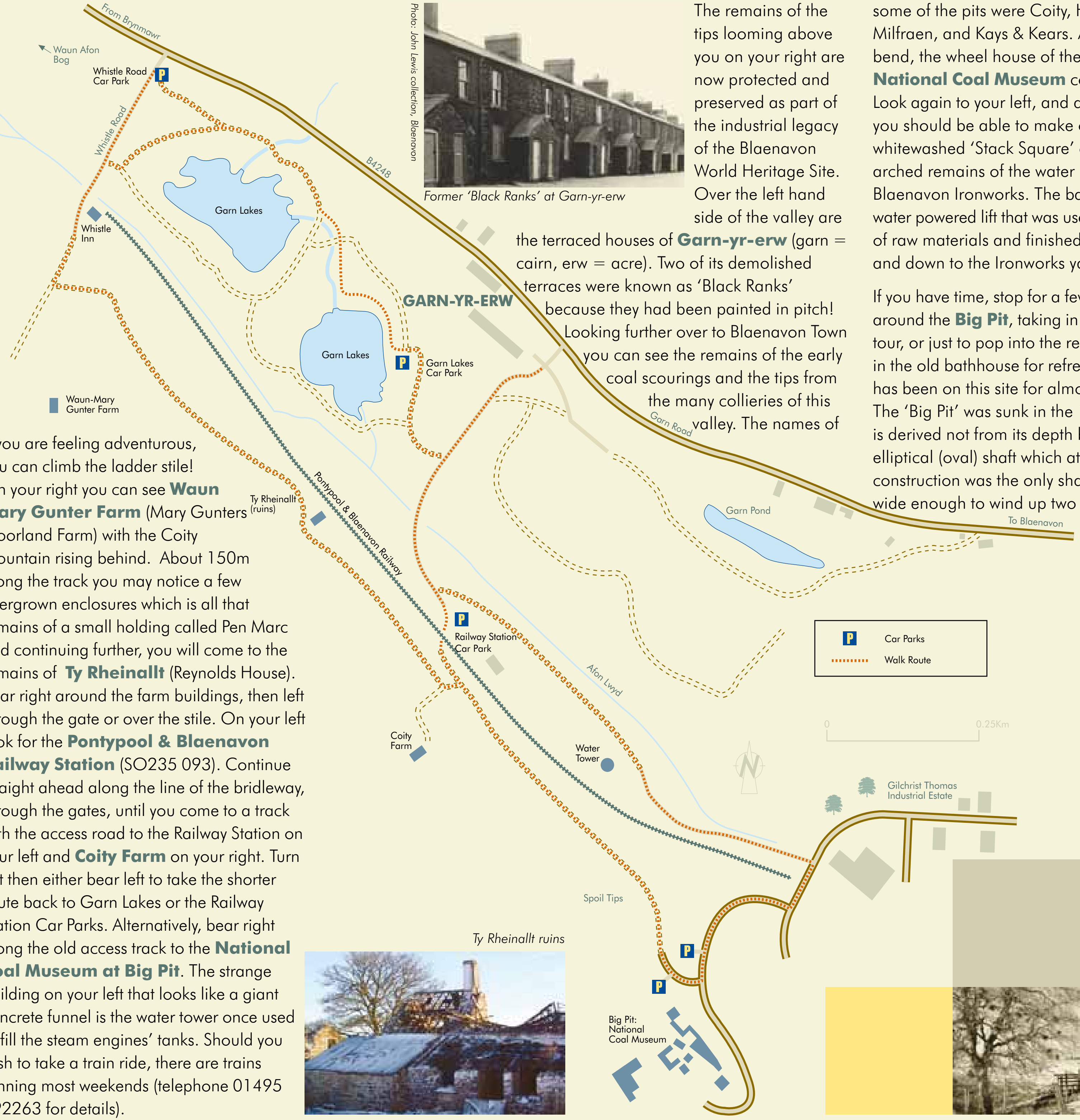
Approx 5Km (3 miles)/ 1½ hours/ moderate

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 Handly-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.



If you are feeling adventurous, you can climb the ladder stile! On your right you can see **Waun Mary Gunter Farm** (Mary Gunters Moorland Farm) with the Coity Mountain rising behind. About 150m along the track you may notice a few overgrown enclosures which is all that remains of a small holding called Pen Marc and continuing further, you will come to the remains of **Ty Rheinallt** (Reynolds House). Bear right around the farm buildings, then left through the gate or over the stile. On your left look for the **Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway Station** (SO235 093). Continue straight ahead along the line of the bridleway, through the gates, until you come to a track with the access road to the Railway Station on your left and **Coity Farm** on your right. Turn left then either bear left to take the shorter route back to Garn Lakes or the Railway Station Car Parks. Alternatively, bear right along the old access track to the **National Coal Museum at Big Pit**. The strange building on your left that looks like a giant concrete funnel is the water tower once used to fill the steam engines' tanks. Should you wish to take a train ride, there are trains running most weekends (telephone 01495 792263 for details).

Ty Rheinallt ruins

Former 'Black Ranks' at Garn-yr-erw

Photo: John Lewis collection, Blaenavon

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.

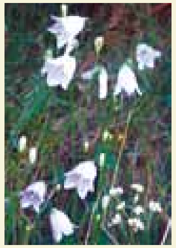
TAITH GYLCH BLAENAFON

TAITH WIB

Gan adael Pwll mawr (neu gychwyn o **Faes Parcio Pwll Mawr**, SO 238 089), dilynwch 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.

Pwlll Mawr

Ar hyd y llwybr hwn, cadwch lygad am degeirianau, clych yr eos eiddil, y fadfelen a blodau'r brain sydd o liw pinc. Fe welwch leision cyffredin, penllwydion ac ieir bach amryliw (mathau o loÿnnod 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 rhywogaeth fwyaf ym Mhrydain.



Bwtsias y gog

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;

Gwyliwch 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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cefnogir gan Raglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd

©2009 Communications Design, TCBC

TAITH WIB

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

BLAENAVON
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
SAFLE TREFTADAETH BYD

TAITH GYLCH BLAENAFON

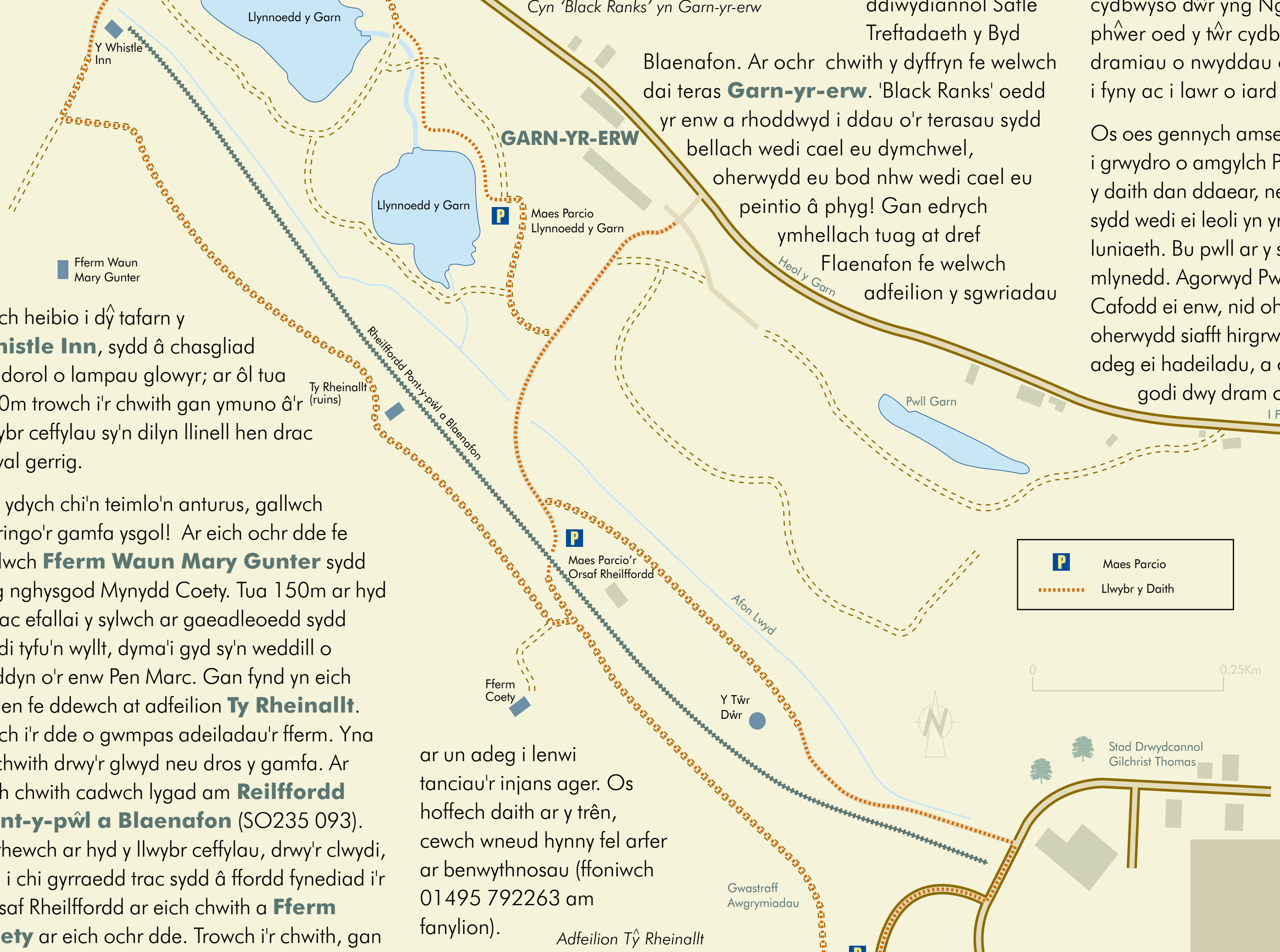
TAITH WIB

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 roeddynt yng nghysgod tomenni sbwriel anferth a grëwyd gan y diwydiant glo. (Rhoddwyd 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 beiciau modur i'r llwybr sydd ger y llyn; trowch i'r dde, ac ar ôl tua 150m, dilynwch 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 lwybr 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. Trowch 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 criw 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.



Ewch heibio i dŷ tafarn y **Whistle Inn**, sydd â chasgliad diddorol o lampau glowyr; ar ôl tua 120m trowch i'r chwith gan ymuno â'r llwybr ceffylau sy'n dilyn llinell hen drac a wal gerrig.

Os ydych chi'n teimlo'n anturus, gallwch ddringo'r gamfa ysgol! Ar eich ochr dde fe welwch **Fferm Waun Mary Gunter** sydd yng nghysgod Mynydd Coety. Tua 150m ar hyd y trac efallai y sylwch ar gaeadleoedd sydd wedi tyfu'n wyllt, dyma'i gyd sy'n weddill o dyddyn o'r enw Pen Marc. Gan fynd yn eich blaen fe ddewch at adfeilion **Ty Rheinallt**. Ewch i'r dde o gwmpas adeiladau'r fferm. Yna i'r chwith drwy'r glwyd neu dros y gamfa. Ar eich chwith cadwch lygad am **Reilffordd Pont-y-pŵl a Blaenafon** (SO235 093). Parhewch ar hyd y llwybr ceffylau, drwy'r clwydi, tan i chi gyrraedd trac sydd â ffordd fynediad i'r Orsaf Rheilffordd ar eich chwith a **Fferm Coety** ar eich ochr dde. Trowch i'r chwith, gan naill ai gadw'r i'r chwith i ddilyn y llwybr byrraf yn ôl i Lynnoedd y Garn neu Feysydd Parcio'r Orsaf Rheilffordd. Ar yn ail, dilynwch y ffordd i'r dde ar hyd yr hen drac i **Bwll Mawr, Amgueddfa Lofaol Cymru**. Y tŵr dŵr yw'r adeilad rhyfedd sy'n edrych fel twndis concrid mawr. Cawsai ei ddefnyddio ar un adeg i lenwi tanciau'r injans ager. Os hoffech daith ar y trên, cewch wneud hynny fel arfer ar benwythnosau (ffoniwch 01495 792263 am fanylion).

Adfeilion Tŷ Rheinallt

Photo: John Lewis collection, Blaenavon

Cyn 'Black Ranks' yn Garn-yr-erw

Erbyn hyn, mae gweddillion y tomenni 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 rhoddwyd i ddau o'r terasau sydd bellach wedi cael eu dymchwel, 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 Lofaol Cymru**. Edrychwch eto ar eich chwith, ac ar draws y dyffryn, fe ddylech weld bythynnod gwyngalch 'Stack Square' ac adfeilion bwaog y tŵr cydbwyso dŵr yng Ngwaith Blaenafon. Lifft â phŵer oed y tŵr cydbwyso 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 grwydro o amgylch Pwll Mawr, gan fanteisio ar y daith dan ddaear, neu beth am bicio i'r bwyty 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 ddyfnder, ond oherwydd siafft hirgrwn, yr unig siafft o'i fath adeg ei hadeiladu, a oedd yn ddigon llydan i godi dwy dram o lo, ochr yn ochr.