



5 Rhiw Bach

Dylanwadodd diwydiant y chwarel yn enfawr ar dirwedd ac ar gymunedau Cwm Penmachno, gan drawsnewid y cymunedau ffermio bach wrth i'r boblogaeth gynyddu. Erbyn dechrau'r 20fed ganrif roedd chwech o ysgolion yn ardal Penmachno yn darparu addysg i dros 400 o blant, ac roedd yma 30 o siopau. Mae'r dro llinellol hon yn archwilio olion dwy chwarel. Cofiwch gadw at y llwybr wrth gerdded drwy Rhiw Fachno a phediwch â dringo ar adfeilion adeiladau'r chwarel am eu bod yn beryglus dros ben.

Pellter: 5km/3 milltir, tua 2-2.5awr

Graddfa: Cymdrol - llwybr garw sy'n dringo'r raddol i fynd i Rhiw Bach
Parcio a man cychwyn: Wrth y giât i Rhiw Fachno, cyf grid: SH753472

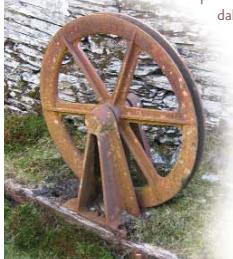
Y Daith Gerdded

- Ewch dros y gamfa sydd wrth y giât a dilyn y llwybr amlwg sy'n tuedd i'r chwirth o gwmpas gwaelod chwarel Rhiw Fachno. Dringwch yn raddol i fynd y llwybr llydan sydd yn ymlyn y chwarel.

Gallwch weld tommenni'r rwbwl, olion sianeli dŵr, sieuliau, ac adfeilion y felin. Roedd y llechi a'r sbwriel yn cael eu symud mewn wagoni. Incleis yw'r llethrâu cerrig, a luniau i ddywys y wagoni llawn yn ddiged i lawr y bryn serth. Ar ben pob inclein roedd drwm mawr a chebl metal wedi'i ddîrwy'n o'i gwmpas. Roedd y cebl yn gydiol â'r wagoni a byddai'n dad-ddîrwy'n araf gan adael i'r wagoni smud i lawr. Wrth i wagon lawn ddysgyn, roedd ei physgota'n tynnau wagen wag i fynd. Cludwyd y llechi gorffenedig gan injan stem i orsaif Betws-y-coed.

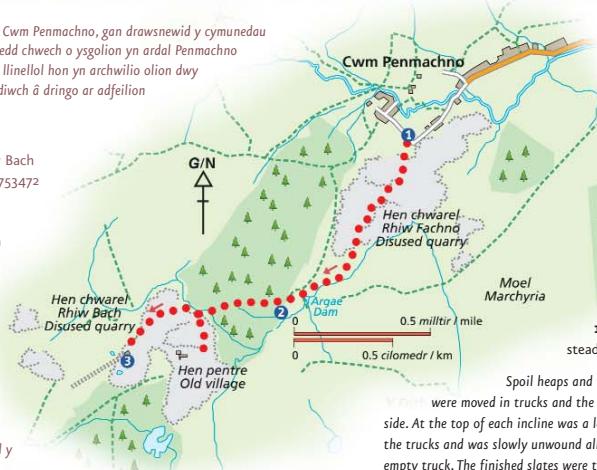
Dilynwch y llwybr llydan wrth iddo igam-ogam ar i fyny'n raddol. Ewch drwy'r giât i'r rhostir agored a pharhau ar y llwybr wrth yr afon sydd ar y chwirth. Sylwch ar wal garreg yr hen argae bridd a fyddai'n dal y dŵr a yr yrau beiriannu'r chwarel ers talwm.

- Ewch drwy'r giât sydd ar derfyn y goedwig a dilyn y llwybr drwy'r goedwig i'r rhostir agored. Mae'r llwybr yn ffwrchio yma ac yn mynd i ran arall o Chwarel Rhiw Bach. Arweinia'r llwybr chwirth o gwmpas pentref gwag y chwarel, gan fynd heibio bythynnod bach a chytiau moch a hen ffensys llechi ac yna'r prif bentref gyda'r barics mywy a'r tai. Roedd gan y pentref ei hysgol ei hunan a bywyd cymunedol cryf. Mae'r prif llwybr yn tuedd i'r dde ac yna'n dringo'n serth i fynd i'r brif felin y gwelir ei simnai dal yn amlwg.



Dan y ddaear roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r chwarela yn digwydd yn Chwarel Rhiw Bach gan greu ceduyllau anferth lle tynnwyd y llechfeini. Byddai'r llechfaen yn cael ei dorri gyda llif yn y cytiau a'i holli'n llechi toea yn y felin. Llusgwyd y llechi gorffenedig i fyny'r inclein oedd y tu ôl i'r felin a'u cludo mewn wagoni gyda cheffyl yn eu tynnau ar hyd y dramffordd i Flaenau Ffestiniog er mwyn ymuno â rheilffordd Porthmadog.

- O felin Rhiw Bach ewch yn ôl yr un ffordd ac i lawr i'r man cychwyn.



Quarrying has had a huge impact on the landscape and communities of the Penmachno valley, transforming the small farming communities as the population grew. By the early 20th century there were six schools in the Penmachno area, providing education for over 400 children, and there were 30 shops! This linear walk explores the remains of two quarries. Please keep to the path through Rhiw Fachno and do not climb on the quarry ruins as they are dangerous.

Parking & start: Roadside parking by Rhiw Fachno, grid ref: SH753472

Distance: 5km / 3 miles, allow 2-2.5hrs

Grade: Moderate - rough track with steady climb to Rhiw Bach

The Route

- Go over stile beside gate and follow clear track that bears left then climb steadily up the track alongside the old quarry.

Spoil heaps and the remains of water channels, sheds and mill ruins can be seen. The slates and spoil were moved in trucks and the stone slopes are inclines built to safely bring the loaded trucks down the steep hillside. At the top of each incline was a large drum around which a long metal cable was wound. The cable was attached to the trucks and was slowly unwound allowing the trucks to move down. As a loaded truck descended its weight pulled up an empty truck. The finished slates were taken by steam engine to Betws-y-coed station for distribution.

Follow the track as it winds up the hillside, still climbing steadily. Go through a gate onto open moorland and continue on path with the river on the left. Notice the stonewall of the old earth dam that once held water to power the quarry machinery.

- Go through a gate into the forest and follow path back onto open moorland. Here the path forks leading to different parts of Rhiw Bach Quarry. The left-hand fork leads round to the derelict quarry village, firstly passing the remains of low cottages with pigsties and old slate fences and then the main village with larger barracks and houses. The main path bears right and then climbs steeply up to the mill, whose tall chimney is clearly visible.

At Rhiw Bach most of the quarrying took place underground creating huge caverns where slate blocks were extracted. The blocks were cut with saws in the sheds and then split into thin roofing slates at the mill. The finished slates were hoisted up the incline behind the mill and taken on horse drawn trucks via a tramway to Blaenau Ffestiniog to join the railway to Porthmadog.

- From Rhiw Bach mill retrace your steps back down to the start.

