Coal Mining

Until 1962 much of Cwm Clydach was a working coal mining valley. The largest colliery, opened in 1863 by Clydach Merthyr Company, was known locally as "Nixons" and was one of the main employers in the area.

The colliery was a rock top colliery but as it was virtually gas free, the boilers to raise the steam for the haulage engines were underground, as was a blacksmiths shop, which was rare in a colliery.

Another interesting feature of this mine was that it had a very strong sandstone roof which meant that large areas of the mine required very little in the way of roof support.

The mine stopped producing coal in 1961 but was kept open until 1978 to provide ventilation and pumping for the Graig Merthyr colliery, which was about 3 miles to the west.

Before closure by the National Coal Board it produced an annual output of 115,000 tons of saleable coal.

Evidence of the mines can be seen as you follow the route of the old tramway up the valley, as ruins of some of the old colliery buildings are still visible.

Nixon's Colliery, workers leaving for the last time.

Pwll Glo Nixon, gweithwyr yn gadael am y tro olaf.

Cloddio am Lo

Hyd at 1962, roedd glo yn cael ei gloddio mewn rhannau helaeth o Gwm Clydach. Agorwyd y lofa fwyaf ym 1863 gan Gwmni Clydach Merthyr a'r enw lleol amdani oedd "Nixons". Roedd yn un o brif gyflogwyr yr ardal.

Glofa to carreg oedd hon, ond oherwydd nad oedd fawr o nwy ynddi, roedd y boeleri i greu'r ager ar gyfer y peirannau cludo o dan y ddaear, yn ogystal â gefail, rhywbeth anghyffredin iawn mewn glofa.

Nodwedd ddiddorol arall o'r lofa hon oedd ei tho tywodfaen a olygai nad oedd angen llawer o gefnogaeth ar y to.

Daeth cloddio am lo i ben ym 1961, ond arhosodd y lofa ar agor tan 1978 er mwyn darparu awyru a phwmpio ar gyfer Glofa Graig Merthyr, oddeutu tair milltir i'r gorllewin.

Cyn i'r Bwrdd Glo Cenedlaethol ei chau, roedd yn cynhyrchu 115,000 o dunelli o lo i'w gwerthu bob blwyddyn.

Gellir gweld olion y glofeydd wrth i chi ddilyn llwybr yr hen dramffordd i fyny'r cwm, gan fod adfeilion rhai o adeiladau'r hen lofa i'w gweld.

Taith Gerdded Cwm Clydach Walk

Carn Llechart Cairn Circle

(SN 697063)

Carn Llechart, is believed to be 3,500 years old, and at 12 metres in diameter is one of the largest and best known ring cairns in Wales.

The Cairn Circle consists of the remains of a cist which is a coffin-like box made up of small slabs of stone. This would have been covered by a mound of earth held back by the 25 outward leaning upright stones.

Cylch Carn Llechart

(SN 697063)

Credir bod Carn Llechart yn 3,500 o flynyddoedd oed, a chyda diamedr o 12 metr, dyma un o'r carnau cylchog mwyaf a mwyaf adnabyddus yng Nghymru.

Mae cylch y Carn yn cynnwys olion cist, sef blwch yn debyg i arch, wedi'i greu o slabiau bach garreg. Byddai hwn wedi cael ei orchuddio gan domen o bridd a fyddai wedi cael ei chynnal gan y 25 maen unionsyth a oedd yn gwyro tuag allan.

Mynydd Carnllechart

This area of Common Land has large swathes of Cotton Grass and Bog Asphodel.

Cotton Grass has been used in the past for, stuffing pillows, making candle wicks and dressing wounds.

It was once thought that cattle grazing on Bog Asphodel suffered from brittle bones and this is reflected in the plants Latin name of *Ossifragum* meaning 'bone breaker'.

Mynydd Carn Llechart

Mae'r tir comin hwn yn cynnwys ardaloedd helaeth o blu'r gweunydd a llafn y bladur.

Yn y gorffennol, defnyddid plu'r gweunydd i lenwi gobenyddion, i wneud wiciau canhwyllau ac i drin clwyfau.

Credid ar un adeg y byddai gwartheg a oedd yn pori ar lafn y bladur yn dioddef o esgyrn brau ac mae enw Lladin y planhigyn, *Ossifragum*, sef 'torrwr asgwrn', yn adlewyrchu hyn.

Gellionnen Chapel (SN700041)

The original Gellionnen Unitarian Chapel was built in 1692 and is considered to be the oldest nonconformist chapel in the area.

The Chapel was rebuilt in 1801, and an ancient carved stone, one of several fragments from a Celtic cross thought to be from the 8th century nearby Llan Eithrim church, was set into an outside wall. In 1965 this stone was removed and presented to Swansea Museum. A replica remains in the wall on the east side of the chapel.

Capel Gellionnen (SN700041)

Adeiladwyd Capel Undodiaid Gellionnen gwreiddiol ym 1692 a chredir mai hwn yw'r capel anghydffurfiol hynaf yn yr ardal.

Ailadeiladwyd y capel ym 1801, ac mewn wal allanol, gosodwyd carreg gerfiedig hynafol, un o sawl darn o Groes Geltaidd y credir ei bod yn dod o Eglwys Llan Eithrim gerllaw sy'n dyddio o'r 8fed ganrif. Ym 1965, cafodd y garreg hon ei symud a'i chyflwyno i Amgueddfa Abertawe. Gellir gweld copi yn y wal ar ochr ddwyreiniol y capel.

Useful Information

- **O.S. Explorer map 165 Swansea.**
- **Mobile phone coverage is generally good, but reception can be poor in valley bottoms.**
- **Stout footwear and waterproofs are advisable.**
- For local public transport information: ***www.travelinecymru.info*** ***www.baytrans.org.uk***
- Swansea Tourist Information Centre: ***www.visitswanseabay.com*** Tel: **01792 468321** E-mail: **tourism@swansea.gov.uk**
- Contact the Countryside Access Team: ***www.swansea.gov.uk/countrysideaccess*** Tel: **01792 635746** or **01792 635230** E-mail: **countrysideaccess@swansea.gov.uk**

Gwybodaeth Ddefnyddiol

- **Map Explorer 165 A.O. Abertawe.**
- **Mae derbyniad signalau ffonau symudol yn dda ar y cyfan, ond gall fod yn wael ar waelod cymoedd.**
- **Dylech wisgo esgidiau cadarn a dillad dwrglos.**
- I gael gwybodaeth am gludiant cyhoeddus lleol, ewch i: ***www.travelinecymru.info*** ***www.baytrans.org.uk***
- Canolfan Croeso Abertawe: ***www.dewchifaeabertawe.com*** Rhif Ffôn: **01792 468321** E-bost: **tourism@swansea.gov.uk**
- Cysylltwch â'r Tîm Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad: ***www.swansea.gov.uk/countrysideaccess*** Rhif Ffôn: **01792 635746** neu **01792 635230** E-bost: **countrysideaccess@swansea.gov.uk**

Area Information

This nine mile circular walk, travels alongside the Lower Clydach River through peaceful woodland, onto unspoilt common land with sites of archaeological interest and spectacular views towards the Brecon Beacons.

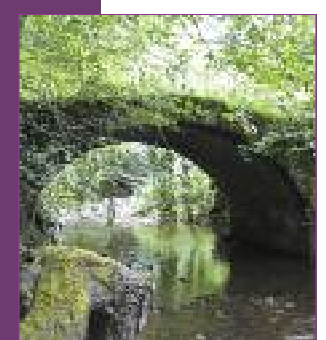
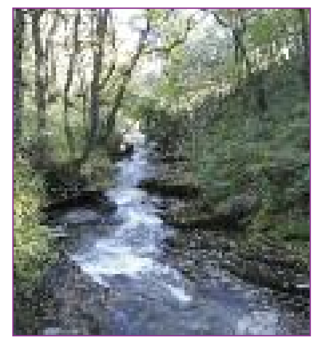
Gwybodaeth am yr Ardal

Mae'r gylchdaith naw milltir hon yn dilyn llwybr Afon Clydach Isaf drwy goedwig dawel, ac ar draws tir comin digyffwrdd lle ceir safleoedd o ddiddordeb archeolegol a golygfeydd ysblennydd tua Bannau Brycheiniog.

Photographs / Lluniau
Phil Marshall & Chris Dale
Dipper: Gary Cooper
Cotton Grass: Dave Woodfall
Bog Asphodel: Jo Mullett
Red Admiral: © Lorne Gill/SNH Nixon's
Mine: Clydach Historical Society

Taith Gerdded Cwm Clydach Walk

9 MILES 14.4 KM – 4 HOURS 10 MINUTES
9 FILLTIR 14.4 KM – 4 AWR 10 MUNUD

Taith Gerdded Cwm Clydach Walk

Taith Gerdded Cwm Clydach Walk

Cwm Clydach RSPB Reserve

Cwm Clydach Reserve was established in 1987 after the RSPB found a large number of breeding birds that were not common to the area.

The reserve is a mixed broadleaf woodland with a wide variety of bird species present all year round. These include Buzzard, Red Kite, Green and Great-Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Bullfinch, Dipper and Grey Wagtail. In the summer months, species such as Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Warbler Blackcap, Pied Flycatcher and Redstart are also commonplace.

A wide variety of butterflies are also seen in the Valley, notable species include the Brimstone and Silver-Washed Fritillary alongside commoner species such as Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Orange-Tip and Red Admiral.

Gwarchodfa RSPB Cwm Clydach

Sefydlwyd Gwarchodfa Cwm Clydach ym 1987 ar ôl i'r RSPB ddarganfod nifer mawr o adar bridio nad oeddent yn gyffredin yn yr ardal.

Mae'r warchodfa yn cynnwys coetir llydanddail cymysg lle gwelir amrywiaeth eang o rywogaethau adar drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys y boncath, y barcut coch, y gnocell fraith fwyaf, telor y cnau, y dringwr bach, coch y berllan, y trochwr a'r siglen lwyd. Yn ystod misoedd yr haf, gellir gweld rhywogaethau megis y gwybedog mannog, telor yr helyg, y telor penddu, y gwybedog brith a'r tingoch hefyd.

Gwelir amrywiaeth eang o ieir bach yr haf yn y cwm hefyd. Mae rhywogaethau nodedig yn cynnwys melyn y rhafnwydd a'r britheg arian, ynghyd â rhai rhywogaethau mwy cyffredin megis gweirlöyn y ddôl, brith y coed, y gwyn blaen oren a'r fantell goch.

The Village of Craig-Cefn-Parc

Craig-Cefn-Parc is thought to mean 'rocks behind the enclosure'. "Craig" probably refers to the several small stone quarries that existed around the village, stone was extracted from these quarries for building the coal miners' cottages as the area developed into a large mining valley. These small quarries have mostly eroded away and are no longer clearly visible now.

"Cefn Parc" is the name of an old farm at the top of the village. The Welsh word "Cefn" means 'at the back of' and "Parc", like its modern English equivalent, derives from an early Norman French word for 'enclosure'. The name suggests that the farm was in the Middle Ages at the very edge of the Manorial Lord's enclosure. Even today, this farm is still the last farm before you reach the open common.

Pentref Craig-Cefn-Parc

Mae'n debyg bod yr elfen 'craig' yn enw Craig-Cefn-Parc yn cyfeirio at y nifer o chwareli carreg bach o amgylch y pentref. Defnyddid carreg o'r chwareli hyn i adeiladu bythynnod y glowyr wrth i'r ardal ddatblygu'n gwm glofaol pwysig. Mae'r chwareli bach hyn wedi cael eu herydu i raddau helaeth erbyn hyn ac nid oes modd eu gweld yn glir nawr.

"Cefn Parc" yw enw hen fferm ym mhen pellaf y pentref. Mae'n debyg bod y gair parc yn tarddu o air Ffrengig Normanaidd cynnar am 'dir caeedig'. Mae'r enw'n awgrymu yr adeiladwyd y fferm yn yr Oesoedd Canol ar ymyl tir caeedig Arglwydd y Faenor. Hyd yn oed heddiw, y fferm hon yw'r un olaf byddwch yn ei gweld cyn cyrraedd y tir comin agored.

Taith Gerdded **Cwm Clydach** Walk