

Cefn Coed Colliery Museum

A great place to start your tour of the valley. This was the deepest anthracite mine in Europe when it opened in 1926, and also one of the most dangerous - nicknamed ‘the slaughterhouse’! The Museum, housed in the old colliery buildings, tells the fascinating story of the mine.



1st shift after nationalisation, 1947
Y stem gyntaf ar ôl y gwladoli, 1947

1 Amgueddfa Glofa Cefn Coed

Lle gwyh i gychwyn crwydro’r cwm. Hwn oedd y pwll glo carreg dyfnaf yn Ewrop pan agorwyd ef ym 1926 ac roedd yn un o’r peryclaf hefyd - ‘y lladd-dy’ oedd y llys-enw arno. Mae’r Amgueddfa yn hen adeiladau’r lofa ac mae’n adrodd stori eithriadol dddidrol o’r lofa.

Crynant Village Trail

Please park considerably near the church. Most of the features can be found within a short walk.

Llwybr Pentref Creunant

Parciwch ger yr eglwys gan ystyried anghenion pobl eraill. Does dim rhaid cerdded yn bell i weld y rhan fwyaf o’r nodweddion.

Chapel of Ease and St Margaret’s Church

The Chapel of Ease is the oldest building in the Dulais Valley, erected by Cistercian Monks from Neath Abbey in the 13th Century. The body of a monk was discovered under the western porch. A poignant grave inscribed “NOT TO BE OPENED” holds two little brothers, who died of contagious illness in 1837 and 1843. St Margaret’s Church, built in 1910, is known for its remarkable stained glass windows.



Chapel of Ease
Capel Anwes

Red Lion Hotel

Now a private house, there had been an alehouse here since at least 1760, when the landlord was charged with keeping ‘a common ill-governed and disorderly house’ and allowing ‘evil’ persons to come together for ‘drinking’ and ‘fighting of cocks’!

3 Gwesty’r Red Lion

Tŷ preifat yw hwn erbyn hyn ond bu tafarn yma ers o leiaf 1760, pan gyhuddwyd y landlord o gadw tŷ aflywodraethus a di-drefn a gadael i bobl ‘ddrwg’ ddod ynghyd i yfed ac ymladd ceiliogod!

Pen Pentre

This row of terraced cottages was the first street in the village, built near to Maes Mawr Colliery, the first mine at Crynant, which opened in 1874.

4 Pen Pentre

Y rhes hon o dai oedd stryd gyntaf y pentref, ger Glofa Maes Mawr, pwll glo cyntaf Creunant, a agorwyd ym 1874.

Bethel and Saron Chapels

5 Capeli Bethel a Soar

Around Crynant

Ardal Creunant

Gelli Galed Farmhouse

A ruined 17th Century farmhouse with numerous religious connections and wonderful panoramic views of the valley.



The view from Gelli Galed
Yr olygfa o’r Gelli Galed

Godre Rhos Chapel

The existing Chapel was built in 1856 to replace an earlier one founded in 1754 by the Rev Henry Thomas. It is an unusual circular design inside, with small gates at the ends of the pews. Howell Harris the famous 18th century Methodist preacher was a frequent visitor to the original Chapel.



7 Capel Godre Rhos

Codwyd y Capel presennol ym 1856 yn lle un cynt a sefydlwyd ym 1754 gan y Parch Henry Thomas. Mae’n anghyffredin gan fod y tu mewn ar ffurf cylch a gatiâu bychain ar ben pob sê. Roedd Howell Harris, y pregethwr enwog o’r 18fed ganrif, yn dod i’r capel gwreiddiol yn aml.

Seven Sisters Village Trail

Llwybr Pentref Blaendulais

Park considerably along Church Road. The trail is a short loop with an optional longer extension.

Parciwch ar Church Road gan ystyried anghenion pobl eraill. Dolen fer yw’r llwybr ond gallwch ddewis mynd ffordd bellach hefyd.

St Mary’s Church

Built in 1911, to replace the corrugated iron Mission Church - now the church hall, which can still be seen behind the new church.



9 Eglwys y Santes Fair

Codwyd yr eglwys ym 1911 yn lle’r Eglwys Genhadol sinc sydd y tu ôl i’r eglwys newydd ac yn cael ei defnyddio fel neuadd yr eglwys erbyn hyn.

Church Road & Brick Row

These single-storey terraces were the first houses in Seven Sisters, built in 1871 to house the workers who sank the first pit.



10 Church Road a Brick Row

Y rhesi tai unllawr hyn oedd tai cyntaf Blaendulais. Cawsant eu codi ym 1871 ar gyfer y gweithwyr a suddodd y pwll cyntaf.



Seven Sisters Blaendulais

Millennium Gardens

Follow the road up the hill from the church. The pit head wheels commemorate the nearby Seven Sisters colliery.



11 Gerddi’r Mileniwm

Dilynwch y ffordd i fyny’r rhiw o’r eglwys. Mae’r olwynion pen pwll yn gofeb i lofa Seven Sisters gerllaw.

Railway Footbridge

The bridge was built in 1911 to span the Neath & Brecon line. Colliers from Evans & Bevan’s pit could cross the line for a drink in Evans & Bevan’s pub, their hard-earned wages flowing straight back to their employers!

12 Pont Droed y Rheilffordd

Codwyd y bont ym 1911 i groesi Rheilffordd Castell-nedd ac Aberhonddu. Gallai glowyr o bwl Evans a Bevan groesi’r lein i gael diod yn nhafarn Evans a Bevan, gan roi’r cyflog yr oedden nhw wedi gweithio mor galed amdano yn syth yn ôl i’w cyflogwyr!

Salem Chapel

13 Capel Salem

Soar Chapel

14 Capel Soar

Bryn-y-bedd Cemetery

Donated to the Parish of Dulais Higher by the mine owner, Evan Evans Bevan in 1925.

15 Mynwent Bryn-y-bedd

Rhoddyd y tir i Blwyf Dulais Uchaf gan berchennog y pwll glo, Evan Evans Bevan, ym 1925.

Bandstand and Cwm

This land was bought by Seven Sisters Miner’s Welfare Society in 1927. The playing field, swimming pools and bandstand opened in 1935 - the celebrations including a Wales v Ireland polo match! The bandstand was refurbished in 2010.



16 Y Bandstand a’r Cwm

Prynwyd y tir gan Gymdeithas Les Glowyr Blaendulais ym 1927. Agorwyd y cae chwarae, y pyllau nofio a’r bandstand ym 1935 ac roedd y dathliadau’n cynnwys gêm polo rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon! Cafodd y bandstand ei hadnewyddu yn 2010.

Around Banwen & Onllwyn

Ardal Banwen ac Onllwyn

Khartoum (Tip) Park

This old spoil heap has been transformed from eyesore to beauty spot. There are great views - down the valley, up towards the Brecon Beacons and across the opencast works where coal is still part of the Dulais Valley story.



17 Parc (Tomen) Khartoum

Mae hen domen lo wedi’i throï’n lle i hamddena a mwynhau’r golygfeydd. Gallwch edrych i lawr y dyffryn, i fyny i gyfeiriad Bannau Brycheiniog ac ar draws y gwaith glo brig sy’n dangos bod glo yn dal yn rhan o stori Cwm Dulais.

St David’s Church

18 Eglwys Dewi Sant

DOVE Workshop

The old British Coal Opencast Executive offices have been transformed into this community centre, with a branch of the South Wales Miners’ Library and the Sarn Helen café amongst its well-used facilities.

19 Gweithdy DOVE

Mae hen swyddfeydd Bwrdd Gweithredol Cloddio Glo Brig Glo Prydain wedi’u troi’n ganolfan gymuned ac mae cangen o Lyfrgell Glowyr De Cymru a chaffi Sarn Helen ymhlith y cyfleusterau poblogaidd.

St Patrick’s Stone

The standing stone commemorates St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who, according to legend, was born in Banwen in 385 AD.



20 Maen Padrig Sant

Mae’r maen hir yn gofeb i Badrig Sant, nawddsant Iwerddon. Yn ôl y sôn, cafodd ei eni ym Manwen yn 385OC.

Roman Fort and Camp

The Neath and Dulais valleys were communication routes in Roman times, the fort and camp forming part of a network of military sites across south Wales. The temporary marching camp may date from the campaigns against the Silures around 74-78AD. The fort, known as the Gaer, was probably built during the same period, as a more permanent base. It would have held over 400 troops and was in use for about 50 years, until the soldiers were sent north to Hadrian’s Wall.

21 Caer a Gwersyll Rhufeinig

Roedd y Rhufeiniaid yn defnyddio cymoedd Nedd a Dulais fel llwybrau cyswllt ac roedd y gaer a’r gwersyll yn rhan o rwydwaith o safleoedd milwrol ar draws y de. Mae’n bosib bod y gwersyll dros dro wedi’i sefydlu adeg yr ymgyrchoedd yn erbyn y Silwriaid tua 74-78OC. Credir bod y Gaer wedi’i chodi tua’r un cyfnod i fod yn ganolfan fwy parhaol. Byddai lle yn y Gaer ar gyfer dros 400 o filwyr a chafodd ei defnyddio am ryw hanner canrif, hyd nes i’r fyddin gael ei hanfon tua’r gogledd i Wal Hadrian.

Gors Llwyn

This peat bog is an important wildlife habitat. The mire, formed on a col between two rivers, is a rare feature in south or mid Wales.

22 Gors Llwyn



Mae’r fawnog hon yn gynefin pwysig i fywyd gwyllt. Fe’i ffurfiwyd ar gol rhwng dwy afon ac mae’n beth prin i’w weld yn y de a’r canolbarth.

Claypon’s Tramway

This area was very isolated in the early 19th Century. In 1827 the Brecon Forest Tramroad, which ran north to Sennybridge, was taken over by Joseph Claypon. He extended it to the Swansea Canal at Gurnos, enabling the profitable export of coal from the area. The line operated until the 1860s when the Neath & Brecon Railway was opened. The tramway is now a public bridleway from Onllwyn to Gurnos.

23 Tramffordd Claypon

Roedd hon yn ardal anghysbell iawn tua dechrau’r 19eg ganrif. Ym 1827, daeth Joseph Claypon yn berchen ar Dramffordd Coedwig Aberhonddu a oedd yn rhedeg tua’r gogledd i Bont Senni. Aeth ati i’w hymestyn hyd at Gamlas Abertawe yn y Gurnos, fel y gellid allforio glo o’r ardal mewn modd proffidiol. Bu’r dramffordd yn gweithio tan y 1860au pan agorwyd Rheilffordd Castell-nedd ac Aberhonddu. Erbyn hyn, defnyddir y dramffordd fel llwybr ceffylau o Onllwyn i’r Gurnos.

Chapels

Capeli

By 1851 Anglican worshippers were a minority in Wales - most Christians were Nonconformists. Chapels quickly sprang up in the new industrial communities. Many became centres of cultural activity with choirs becoming particularly popular (partly in an attempt to keep people out of the pub!). You can still see many of these chapels in the villages of the valley.

Erbyn 1851, roedd yr Eglwyswyr yn lleiafrif yng Nghymru - Anghydffurfwyr oedd y rhan fwyaf o Gristnogion. Roedd capeli’n codi fel madarch yn y cymunedau diwydiannol newydd. Daethant yn ganolfannau diwylliannol byrlymus ac roedd gan lawer ohonynt eu côr eu hunain (yn rhannol er mwyn ceisio cadw pobl o’r dafarn!). Mae llawer o’r capeli hyn i’w gweld ym mhentrefi’r cwm o hyd.

Carboniferous Period
Coal formed from layers of dead vegetation building up in tropical swamps.

Fossil Trees
These rare, very well preserved, fossils were discovered at Darrell Open Cast Mine, Nant-y-Cafn, in 2000. Fragments of more than 40 trees and bushes were found. They are preserved at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and replicas can be seen outside the Dulais Valley Partnership office in Seven Sisters.

Iron Age & The Romans
Local Celtic tribes were conquered by the invading Roman army. Forts, such as the Gaer near Coelbren, and roads, such as Sarn Helen, helped them to control the area.

Seven Sisters Hoard
This mixture of Celtic and Roman material, including tankard handles and decorative harness pieces, was found in 1875 by a local farmer. They were used as children’s playthings until the early 20th century when a local doctor recognised their historical importance. The originals are displayed in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and replicas held by Neath Museum Service.

Roman Tombstone
This originally stood on the mountain a mile south of Coelbren fort, on the route of Sarn Helen. Local legend says that it stood in a circle where fairies danced. In 1686 Sir Humphrey Mackworth moved the stone to his home in Neath. Soon after the grotto was struck by lightning - the fairies revenge? Now in Swansea Museum, a replica stands on the mountain above Banwen.

St Patrick
Legend has it that Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland was born in Banwen. His Welsh name was said to be Maewyn Succat and that his father Caiphurnius was a Roman official based at the fort at Coelbren. Maewyn was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave.

Celtic Cross Stone
The Gnoll Stone (Cefn Hirfynydd) is part of a Celtic wheel cross. It shows a Celtic priest, in a short pleated kilt, with his hands raised in prayer. It represents Christian tradition brought to Wales by monks from Ireland. The original is now in Swansea Museum and a replica stands on the mountain above Banwen.

Industrial Revolution
Coal was the main fuel of the Industrial Revolution and the south Wales coalfield produced some of the best in the world. The coal attracted other industries to the area. Tramroads and railways carried the coal and other products down to Neath and Swansea from where they were exported around the world.

Evan Evans-Bevan
David Bevan (1825-88) was a mineowner who sank the first pit at Seven Sisters. The colliery took its name from his seven daughters; Nancy, Mary, Sarah, Magreta, Frances, Maria and Sophia. His son Evan Evans-Bevan later took over the colliery and was a wealthy and influential figure in the valley.

Banwen Ironworks
The most complete ironworks to survive on the anthracite coalfield. Built in 1845-48 it may only have produced some 80 tons of pig iron. The cowhouse next to Tonypurddyn Farm was the carpenter’s shop and smithy for the works, and a pond to supply water to the blast engine remains to the rear. To the south are the foundations and ruins of Tai-Garreg, workers’ houses. Between the farm and the River Pyrdain is a huge masonry charging bank with two substantially intact furnaces and a crumbling blast-engine house.

Last passengers on the Neath & Brecon Railway
Originally authorised as the Dulais Valley Mineral Railway, the N&B became part of a through route from Swansea to the Midlands. In its heyday 8 stations and halts served villages and mines along the valley. Passenger trains ceased in 1964 but coal is still carried to Neath from Onllwyn washery.

Today and the future
Some industry still continues in the valley, while the scars of others are gently fading. Local people are working to restore the natural beauty whilst preserving the area’s fascinating history.

Khartoum (Tip) Park
The tip contains spoil from Onllwyn No.1 Colliery, worked from 1856 to 1964. In 2008 the tip was reseeded and planted to become a natural beauty spot and a great place for peaceful walks and picnics.

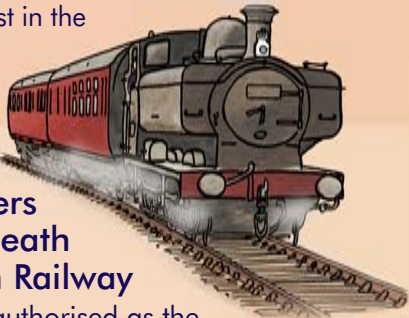
Parc (Tomen) Khartoum
Mae’r domen yn cynnwys gwastraff o Lofa Onllwyn Rhif 1, a fu’n gweithio rhwng 1856 a 1964. Yn 2008, plannwyd porfa a phlanhigion eraill ar y domen i’w harddu a’i gwneud yn addas ar gyfer gweithgareddau hamdden fel cerdded a phicnics.

Heddiw a’r dyfodol
Mae ychydig o ddiwydiant yn dal yn y cwm and mae creithiau rhai diwydiannau’n pylu’n araf. Mae pobl leol yn gweithio i adfer yr harddwch naturiol, gan warchod hanes diddorol yr ardal hefyd.



Teithwyr olaf Rheilffordd Castell-nedd ac Aberhonddu

I ddechrau, cafodd Rheilffordd yr N&B ei hawdurdodi fel y ‘Dulais Valley Mineral Railway’ and yna daeth yn rhan o’r daith o Abertawe i Ganolbarth Lloegr. Pan oedd yn ei hanterth, roedd 8 gorsaf ac arhosfan yn gwasanaethu pentrefi a phyllau glo ar hyd y cwm. Daeth y trenau teithwyr i ben ym 1964 ond mae glo’n dal i gael ei gario i Gastell-nedd o olcha Onllwyn.



Dulais Valley HERITAGE TRAIL

TAITH DREFTADAETH Cwm Dulais



Discover over 2000 years of history in 20 kilometres
Cewch weld dros 2000 o flynyddoedd o hanes mewn 20 cilometr

This is the oldest settlement in the valley, founded long before the Industrial Revolution. By the 1840s it had a church, chapel, inn, mill and coal mining around Crynant and the expansion of the village.

Dyma’r oaheddiad hynaf yn y cwm. Cafodd ymhell cyn y Chwyldro Diwydiannol. Erbyn 1840au, roedd yma eglwys, capel, tŷ, mlyn a chymuned o ddol. Ffan agorwyd y rheilffordd ym 1864, gweilyd cynnydd yn y diwydiant glo yn ardal Crynant a tyfod y pentref.



Crynant

Dyma un o gymoedd enwog maes glo y de. Bu yma gyfundiad difyr o ffurfio a phyllau glo, tai fferas a neuaddau lles, corau a bandiau - ac glo oedd tonwyd y Chwyldro Diwydiannol a bu glo ardderchog Cymru’n gyrru llongau, trenau a ffatrïoedd ym mhedwar ban byd. Yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg a’r 20fed ganrif, bu miloedd o ddynion yn gweithio’r gwyrthienau glo correg o dan y cwm hwn. Ond story did not start with coal. Bronze Age farmers, Roman soldiers and medieval monks have all left their mark here.

Welcome to the Dulais Valley

Croeso i Gwm Dulais

Onllwyn oedd pentref diwydiannol cynaf ym 1845, agorwyd Glofa Banwen ar gyfer gweithwyr. Sefydlwyd Cwath Haearn Banwen ym 1847 ond daeth mine and more workers’ housing. Banwen Ironworks was established in 1847 but only lasted until 1854.

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Onllwyn & Banwen

Unlike Crynant, doded dim pentref ym y cyfot yma ym 1872. Galdwyd ym 1872. Galdwyd Sisters ar ol saith Sisters ar ol saith David Bevan, The owner, until the first pit was sunk here in 1872.



Yn wahanol i Crynant, doded dim pentref ym y cyfot yma ym 1872. Galdwyd Sisters ar ol saith Sisters ar ol saith David Bevan, The owner, until the first pit was sunk here in 1872.

Seven Sisters

Blaendulais

Other Walking Routes

Llwybrau Eraill i’w Cerdded

There are plenty of footpaths and brideways for you to explore the fantastic scenery of the valley. Mae digon o lwybrau troed a llwybrau ceffyl i’w crywdro er mwyn mwynhau golgyddedd hardd y cwm. **Llwybr Ceffyl 9** Mae’r llwybr 5 milltir (8km) yn cysylltu Onllwyn, Blaendulais a Chreunant. **Sarn Helen** Yr ôl y sôn, cafodd yr heol hylwr reputedly named after the wife of a Roman Governor. It follows the hilltop on the eastern side of the valley, with striking panoramic views. **Ffordd Sant Illtyd** Roedd Sant Illtyd yn byw tua diwedd y sedd a dechrau’r 6ed ganrif ac roedd yn uchel ei barch yng Nghymru. Mae Ffordd Sant Illtyd yn 6.4 milltir o hyd ac yn croesi’r cwm trwy Creunant.

How to get here

For bus times contact: www.traveline-cymru.info 0871 200 22 33
I gael amserau’r bysus, cysylltwch â: www.traveline-cymru.info 0871 200 22 33



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a partnership for community regeneration
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through the Strategic Lottery Fund
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Cewch wybod mwy am Gwm Dulais yn: www.dulaivalley.org.uk/



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