

Walks in Clydach Vale

3 self-guided walks exploring the countryside around Clydach Vale

Crwydro Cwm Clydach

3 taith gerdded hunan-dywysedig trwy gefn-gwlad Cwm Clydach



ATTRACTIONS

AMENITIES | Overlooking the *Lower Lake*, the *Cambrian Sky Blue Café* offers a selection of refreshments and meals at affordable prices. Bird watching around the Lower Lake can offer delightful glimpses of *kingfishers*, *dippers*, *herons*, *ducks*, *coot* and *moorhens* at any time of the year. Numerous other species abound elsewhere within *Clydach Vale Country Park*.

For the athletically-inclined, the *King George V recreation ground* sports a running track which is available all year round. Each year it is also a base for a local fete and a gruelling 3.8 mile *Fun Run* that takes place every July. In the village itself are several *shops* and *pubs*, and the *Community Development Centre* provides an additional café.

Set deeper into the valley is the *Upper Lake* – a more secluded spot, just right for sitting back and letting the world drift by.



ATYNIADAU

ADNODDAU | Â golygfeydd dros y *Llyn Isaf* o'i flaen, mae caffi'r *Cambrian Sky Blue* yn cynnig dewis o luniaeth a phrydau am brisiau teg. Lle gwych ar gyfer gwyllo adar yw'r *Llyn Isaf*. Cewch gyfle i weld *glas y dorlan*, *bronwen y dŵr*, y *crëyr*, yr *hwyaden*, y *gwtiâr*, a'r *iâr ddŵr* gydol y flwyddyn. Mae lluo o rywogaethau eraill i'w cael hefyd mewn rhannau eraill o *Barc Gwledig Cwm Cynon*.

Ydych chi'n un o bobl y campau? *Maes Hamdden Siôr V* yw'r lle i chi, gyda'i drac rhedeg sydd ar gael gydol y flwyddyn. Dyna hefyd yw safle'r arddwest leol bob blwyddyn. A phob Gorffennaf, bydd rhedwyr y fro'n chwysu chwartiau yn y *Ras Hwyl* enwog. Mae nifer o siopau a thafarnau yn y pentref. Os ydych chi'n chwilio am gaffi ychwanegol, mae un i'w gael yng *Nghanolfan Datblygu Cwm Clydach*.

Ymhellach i mewn i'r cwm y mae'r *Llyn Uchaf* – yn gorwedd mewn man llawer mwy diarffordd. Dyma le i chi eistedd ac ymlacio, ymhell o drwr'r byd mawr.

ATTRACTIONS

LANDSCAPE and WILDLIFE | *Heather* and *wimberry* heath and acid grasslands of the open upland plateau dip down on the spectacular, steep-sided slopes of Clydach Vale. Here the wild uplands meet wildflower-rich, colliery-spoil meadows with *southern marsh* and *bee orchids*, *marsh thistles* and *betony*, *greater bird's-foot trefoil* and *dog violets* where bright *orange fritillary* butterflies soar. *Adders* bask on sunny slopes and the rare, wild carnation – *Deptford Pink* – flowers. Here, too, woodland plantings and natural colonisation support *blackcaps* and *whitethroats* – softening and naturalising the valley-setting.

Every spring the valley reverberates to the call of the *cucoos*, and in the evening, *barn owls* hunt high on the valley sides. The valley's two lakes are popular bird-watching sites – with *tufted ducks*, *herons*, *little grebe*, *coot*, *moorhens* and *dippers* nesting in the rock-sides of the fast-flowing stream. Clydach Vale is a special place for wildlife – a place full of biodiversity surprise.



ATYNIADAU

TIRWEDD a BYWYD GWYLLT | Yma ar gyron y tir uchel, fe welwch *löynnod byw britheg* â'u hadenydd oren yn gwibio ar hyd y dolydd blodeuog. Mae'r hen wastraff glofaol wedi'i guddio dan garped o *degeirian y gors gogleddol*, *tegeirian y wenynen*, *ysgallen y gors*, *cribau San Ffraid*, *troed yr iâr*, a'r *fioled gyffredin*. Ar y llethrau heulog mae lle i'r *wiber* orwedd yn yr heulwen, ac, o dro i dro, i *benigan y porfeydd* flodeuo. Cafodd coed newydd eu plannu yma, ac mae rhai wedi cartrefu'n naturiol. Bydd hyn yn rhoi gwedd fwy addfwyn a naturiol i'r cam, ac yn creu cynefin i'r *telor penddu* a'r *llwydfron*.

Bob Gwanwyn fe glywn gân drist y *gog* yma. Gyda'r nos, fe fydd y *dylluan wen* yn hela llygod fry ar y llethrau uchel. Bydd y ddau lyn yn denu llawer o wylwyr adar. Deuant yma i weld yr *hwyaden gopog*, y *crëyr*, yr *wyach fach*, y *gwtiâr*, yr *iâr ddŵr*, a *bronwen y dŵr* yn nythu ar lannau caregog y ffrwd fywiog. Lle neilltuol i'r bywyd gwylt yw Cwm Clydach, lle mae cyfoeth y fioamrywiaeth yn syfrdanu'n hymwelwyr.

GEOGRAPHY

GEOLOGY | The geology of Cwm Clydach was carved out during the last great ice age about 8000–10000 years ago. The classic coal-field arrangement of pennant sandstone can be seen high on the valley sides – in the beautiful rock outcrop of *Tarren Ty Cneifio* and in the numerous small quarries from which the stone was won to dress the frontages of terraced streets in the village.



DAEARYDDIAETH

DAEAREG | Mae haenau tywodfaen pennant nodweddiadol y maes glo i'w weld yn uchel ar lethrau'r cwm. *Tarren Ty Cneifio* yw'r amlycaf, gyda brigiad hardd o'r garreg. Yma ac acw ceir chwareli bychain, ffynhonell y cerrig nadd i wynebau'r tai teras yn y pentref.

Ymhell islaw mae'r glo yn gorwedd, ffynhonell y Chwyldro Diwydiannol a phrif achos twf sydyn y pentref.

GEOGRAPHY

Below is the coal, exploited in the industrial revolution, the reason for the village's growth and expansion. While the pits have gone, the waste and spoil left behind now form the Clydach Vale Country Park. The *Nant Clydach* stream rises in the peat bogs and forestry of *Mynydd William Meyrick*, and flows through this classic, steep-sided Rhondda side-valley, joining the waterfall-fed *Pant-y-Twlc* at a confluence just above the Upper Lake.



DAEARYDDIAETH

DATBLYGIAD | Drwy gwrs adferedig y mae Nant Clydach yn llifo, drwy ddau lyn, ac ymlaen tua'i chydliwiad ag afon *Rhondda Fawr* yn Nhonypandy. Mae tirwedd drefol y cwm wedi'i gweu o strydoedd serth, terasau hir, capeli, ac ysgolion, yn nodweddiadol o bentrefi glofaol y Rhondda. Craffwch ar hon, ac ar y dirwedd naturiol, a dyna chi'n darllen hanes neilltuol Cwm Clydach. Mae *Pwll Glo'r Cambrian* wedi'i gau ers llawer dydd, a'r diwydiannau trwm wedi hen ddarfod. Yn nyffrynnoedd Clydach a Rhondda, mae byd natur wedi dechrau meddiannau'r llethrau o'r newydd. Mae cynllun ar y gweill i osod dau micro-eneradur trydan dŵr ar lan Nant Clydach. Bydd y cynllun hwn yn fodd i gymunedau lleol derbyn eu cyflenwad ynni o ffynhonnell fwy cynaliadwy.

Mae'r pyllau wedi hen gau, gan adael y gwastraff ar eu hôl. Hwn yw sylfaen Parc Gwledig Cwm Cynon. Ymhlith mawngogydd a choedwigoedd *Mynydd William Meurig* mae ffynnon *Nant Clydach* yn codi. I lawr â hi drwy gwm ochr llethrog nodweddiadol o'r Rhondda, i gydliwiad â *Phant-y-Twlc* ychydig uwchlaw'r Llyn Uchaf.

DEVELOPMENT | The Nant Clydach stream flows through a restored course, into two lakes, then reaches its confluence with the *Rhondda Fawr* river in Tonypany. The valley's urban landscape – its street patterns, housing, chapels and schools, typical of a Rhondda mining village – joins with the natural landscapes in telling the special story of Clydach Vale. Since the closure of the *Cambrian Colliery* and the ending of heavy industry, the Clydach and Rhondda valleys have begun to reclaim their natural landscapes. Two planned micro hydro-electric generators, on the Nant Clydach stream, is one scheme where local communities may look forward to future energy from a more sustainable source.

HISTORY

EMPLOYMENT | Until the 1840s Clydach Vale was a pastoral valley covered mainly in oak, beech and ash trees. With the arrival of the industrial revolution, pits were sunk to extract the coal needed to fire furnaces, feeding the increasing hunger of Victorian technological advances and an expanding British Empire. The '*Cambrian Combine*' was one of the biggest in the Rhondda where more and more collieries were being sunk throughout the valley to reach the coal that lay beneath.



HANES

CYFLOGAETH | Dyffryn gwledig diarffordd oedd Cwm Clydach tan ar ôl 1840. Roedd yn llawn coed derw, ffawydd, ac ynn. Ond, o ganlyniad i'r Chwyldro Diwydiannol, roedd angen glo i gadw'r holl ffwrneisi ynghyn. Cafodd pyllau'u suddo i gael y glo, a dyma'r tanwydd fu'n gyrru peiriannau a dyfeisiau newydd Oes Fictoria. Y tanwydd hwn fu'n gyrru'r llongau i bob cwr o'r Ymerodraeth Brydeinig. Roedd cwmnïau glo yn suddo pyllau newydd byth a hefyd i gael y glo dan loriau'r Rhondda. Roedd y *Cambrian* gyda'r mwyaf o'r cwmnïau hyn.

SOCIAL | Industrial strife became commonplace, resulting in men joining trade-unions, fighting for better conditions for themselves and their families. This struggle continued until a national miners' strike in 1984–1985, by which time the south-Wales coalfield had reduced in size. No collieries were left working in Clydach Vale itself, yet many men from the valley continued employment in those pits which did remain, scattered throughout the south-Wales Valleys.



HISTORY

EVENTS | The Cambrian Colliery closed in 1967 – two years after a disaster where 31 men lost their lives (the last major mining disaster in the UK). This was the second disaster to strike the mine – in 1905 an explosion claimed the lives of 33 men. In 1910 another tragedy struck Cwmclydach village itself – when a culvert burst, releasing thousands of gallons of water and mud into Adams Street and trapping hundreds of children at Cwmclydach school. This happened as men from the colliery were changing shift who, fortunately, were able to save many children. But, sadly, six people – two adults and four children – perished.



HANES

DIGWYDDIADAU | Bu trychineb erchyll ym Mhwll y Cambrian ym 1967, a laddwyd 31 o lowyr – dyma'r ddamwain mwyngloddio sylweddol olaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach, fe gaewyd y pwll. Dyma'r ail trychineb i daro'r pwll. Bu farw 33 o lowyr mewn ffrwydrad ym 1905. Bu damwain erchyll arall ym 1910, y tro hwn yn y pentre. Fe darddodd un o'r ceuffosydd, a llifoedd miloedd o alwyni o ddŵr a llaid i mewn i Adams Street. Cafodd cannoedd o blant eu dal yn gaeth yn Ysgol Cwmclydach. Roedd y shifftiau ar ganol newid yn y lofa, drwy drugaredd, a daeth y glowyr i achub niferoedd mawr o blant. Er hyn fe golodd dau oedolyn a phedwar o blant eu bywyddau.

FAMOUS LOCAL PEOPLE

[1] **Tommy Farr**, the '*Clydach Warrior*' and '*Tonypandy Terror*' was crowned British and Empire Heavyweight Champion in March 1937. In August 1937, against Joe Louis – '*The Brown Bomber*' – Tommy was expected to be a push-over, yet took Louis the full 15-round distance... but lost on points. Tommy, however, won the respect of the boxing world – and gained a number of victories before retiring in 1940.

[2] **Donald Houston**, an actor, played mainly film roles including *The Blue Lagoon*, *A Run For Your Money*, *The Longest Day* and *Where Eagles Dare*. He played comedy roles in *Doctor in the House* and *Doctor in Distress*.



2

3

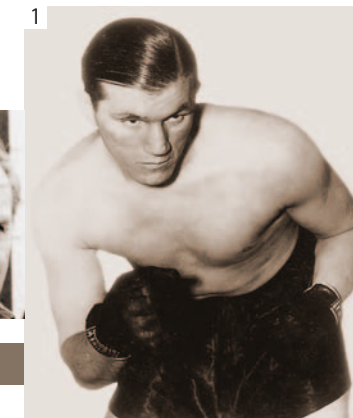
ENWOGION Y FRO

[1] Cafodd y paffiwr **Tommy Farr**, '*Clatshiw'r Clydach*' a '*Thaniwr Tonypandy*', ei goroni'n Bencampwr Pwysau Trwm Prydain a'r Ymerodraeth ym mis Mawrth 1937. Yn erbyn Joe – '*Bomiwr Brown*' – Louis ym mis Awst 1937, roedd pawb yn disgwyl y byddai Tommy ar wastad ei gefn cyn pen dim – ond safodd ei dir am yr holl 15 rownd... yn colli ar bwyntiau. Enillodd Tommy fodd bynnag, barch bawb o bobl byd paffio – ac enillodd nifer o fuddugoliaethau cyn ymddeol ym 1940.

[2] Y sgrin fawr oedd byd yr actor **Donald Houston**. Cafodd rannau yn '*The Blue Lagoon*', '*A Run For Your Money*', '*The Longest Day*' a '*Where Eagles Dare*'. Bu'n chwarae rhannau comedi yn '*Doctor in the House*' a '*Doctor in Distress*'.

[3] **Glyn Houston**, Donald's younger brother, also an actor, played mainly TV roles including *Keep it in the Family*, *Lord Peter Wimsey*, *My Good Woman*, *Softly Softly* and *Doctor Who*.

Lewis Jones, was a writer. His books *Cwmardy* and *We Live* were classic novels, highlighting hardships suffered by Welsh mining families of the early 20th century. He once served three months in Swansea prison for his political activities with the trade unions. On another occasion, he was deported from Russia after failing to stand for an ovation to Joseph Stalin!



ENWOGION Y FRO

[3] Brawd iau Donald yw **Glyn Houston** – y sgrin fach ei fyd ef. Ymhlith y rhaglenni lle bu'n actio roedd '*Keep it in the Family*', '*Lord Peter Wimsey*', '*My Good Woman*', '*Softly Softly*' a '*Doctor Who*'.

Llenor oedd **Lewis Jones**. Mae'i nofelau '*Cwmardy*' a '*We Live*' – yn glasurol bellach – yn cyfleu portread o fywyd a brwydrau'r glowyr yn rhan gyntaf yr 20fed ganrif. Treuliodd dri mis yng ngharchar Abertawe am ei weithgareddau gwleidyddol gyda'r undebau llafur. Ar adeg arall yn Rwsia, gwrthododd Lewis Jones godi i'w draed pan ddaeth Joseph Stalin i mewn, a chafodd ei yrru'n syth adref!

WALKS IN CLYDACH VALE

THE FOUR self-guided walks in this leaflet will appeal to those wishing to explore the hills, farmland and woodlands of the beautiful Clydach Vale. Beginning at the *Cambrian Sky Blue Café*, the walking routes visit a number of sites of local historical interest, such as the location of the former Cambrian Colliery, and pass several places of wildlife and geological interest. The views south from Mynydd William Meurig extend across the Bristol Channel to the uplands of Exmoor National Park.

Devised and promoted by Cwm Clydach Communities First, many of the walking routes cross land managed by Forestry Commission Wales and not all follow maintained paths or tracks. Sometimes a route will be uneven and rutted. You should, therefore, be suitably prepared and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Forestry Commission Wales looks after the woods and forests belonging to the Welsh Assembly Government. As well as managing the forests for recreation and wildlife, the trees are harvested for timber. If you come across a work-site where trees are being felled, or a new track or road being built, then please obey all safety signs, and do not approach machinery or climb on stacks of logs.

The forests in this leaflet are 'open access land' which means visitors are welcome to explore anywhere on foot. However restrictions may be put in place due to the operations outlined above.

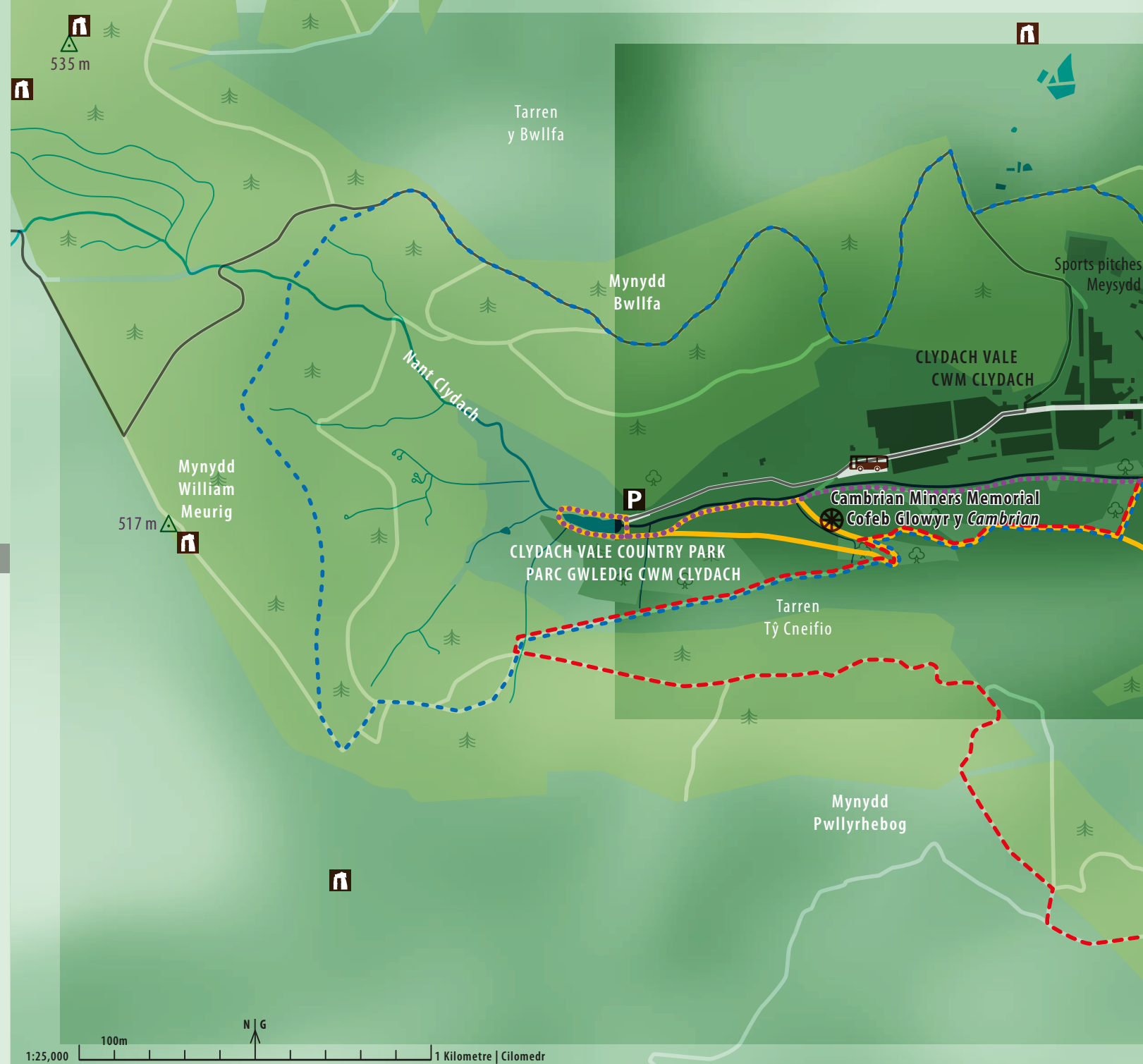
CRWYDRO CWM CLYDACH

HOFFECH CHI GRWYDRO bryniau, ffermdir, a choetir hardd Cwm Clydach? Mae'r daflen hon yn disgrifio pedair taith hunandwysedig i chi'u dilyn. Yn cychwyn ger caffi'r *Cambrian Sky Blue* bydd y teithiau'n mynd â chi heibio i fannau o ddiddordeb hanesyddol, megis er enghraifft safle hen Lofa'r Cambrian, a thrwy leoedd lle mae cyfoeth o fywyd gwyllt a daeareg i'w gweld. Ewch i fyny ar Fynydd Wiliam Meurig, edrychwch allan tua'r De, ac fe welwch rosydd Parc Cenedlaethol Exmoor tu draw i Fôr Hafren.

Lluniwyd a hybwyd gan Gymunedau yn Gyntaf Cwm Clydach, mae llawer o'r llwybrau yn rhedeg dros dir dan reolaeth Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru. Nid yw'r rhain i gyd yn dilyn llwybrau a thraciau sy'n cael eu cynnal a'u cadw. Weithiau, bydd rhannau o'r llwybr yn anwastad ac yn llawn rhigolau. Dyna pam y dylech wneud paratodau addas. Gwisgwch ddillad ac esgidiau sy'n addas.

Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru sy'n gofalu am y coedydd a'r coedwigoedd sy'n eiddo i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Yn ogystal â darparu lle i hamddena a chynefin i'r bywyd gwyllt, caiff y coed eu cynaeafu ar gyfer pren. Mae'n bosibl y byddwch chi'n dod ar draws safle gwaith o dro i dro, lle mae gweithwyr wrthi'n torri coed, neu'n adeiladu ffordd neu drac newydd. Gwnewch bopeth welwch chi ar yr arwyddion rhybudd. Peidiwch â mynd yn agos at beiriannau, neu ddringo ar bentyrrau o foncyffion.

'*Tir mynediad agored*' yw'r coedwigoedd yn y daflen hon. Gan hynny, mae hawl gan ymwelwyr i fforio i bob man yno ar droed. Cofiwch er hyn fod y mathau uchod o waith ymlaen weithiau. Bydd raid cyfyngu ar yr hawl i gerdded.





KEY

ALLWEDD

MODERATE / DIFFICULT – Approximately 11 kilometres – Allow 4.5 hours
CYMEDROL / ANODD – Tua 11 cilomedr – Gadewch 4.5 awr

MODERATE – Approximately 8 kilometres – Allow 3.5 hours
CYMEDROL – Tua 8 cilomedr – Gadewch 3.5 awr

EASY – Approximately 5 kilometres – Allow 2 hours
HAWDD – Tua 5 cilomedr – Gadewch 2 awr

EASY – Approximately 4.25 kilometres – Allow 1.5 hours
HAWDD – Tua 4.25 cilomedr – Gadewch 1.5 awr

Loops & Links trails
 Llwybrau Cylchoedd a Dolenni

Other tracks
 Traciau eraill

Main roads
 Prif-ffyrdd

Bus terminus
 Terminws bysiau

Railway
 Rheilffordd

Station
 Gorsaf

Rivers and streams
 Afonydd a nentydd

Lakes and reservoirs
 Llynnoedd a chronfeydd

Open Access coniferous woodland
 Coetir conifer *Mynediad Agored*

Open Access deciduous woodland
 Coetir collddail *Mynediad Agored*

Coniferous woodland
 Coetir conifer

Deciduous woodland
 Coetir collddail

Buildings
 Adeiladau

Religious building
 Adeilad crefyddol

School building
 Adeilad ysgol

Public toilets
 Toiledau cyhoeddus

Refreshments
 Llundiaeth

Car park
 Maes parcio

Prehistoric site
 Safle cynhanesyddol

Transmission mast
 Mast trosglwyddo

Triangulation pillar
 Piler triongli

Please follow the countryside code

- enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- guard against all risk of fire
- fasten all gates
- keep your dog under control
- 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 care especially on country roads
- make no unnecessary noise.

Cofiwch ddilyn y côd cefn gwlad

- mwynhewch gefn gwlad a pharchu'r bywyd a'r gwaith
- gofawch beidio ag achosi tân
- caewch bob clwyd/ gât
- cadwch eich ci o dan reolaeth
- cadwch at lwybrau cyhoeddus os byddwch yn croesi tir ffermio
- defnyddiwch glwydi/ gatiâu a sticlau/ camfâu i fynd dros ffensys, cloddiau a waliau
- gadewch lonydd i anifeiliaid fferm, cnydau a pheiriannau
- ewch â'ch sbwriel adref gyda chi
- helpwch i gadw pob math o ddŵr yn lân
- helpwch i warchod bywyd gwylt, planhigion a choed
- byddwch yn ofalus, yn enwedig ar heolydd gwledig
- peidiwch â gwneud sŵn diangen.



www.groundworkinwales.org.uk/
 groundworkmerthyrandrhoneidacynontaff.html



Supporting Communities throughout the Valleys
 Cefnogi Cymunedau trwy y Cymoedd



www.destinationrct.co.uk



www.thevalleys.co.uk



www.communities-first.org/eng/
 partnership_directory/cwm_clydach
 www.cwmclydach.com



www.tonypandy2010.com



www.forestry.gov.uk/wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government
 wales.gov.uk



Tarren y Pentre