

North Wales Miners Association Trust Ltd

Deeside West Mine Trail



A 29 mile circular trail by car or bike, passing features relating to the local coal and lead industries. Note that some of the places are on private land and this should be obvious. In such a case please ask first for permission to visit. The trail starts at Petrolheads Cafe on the A548 between Bagillt and Holywell but you can join and leave it anywhere along the route. It covers features in a rough triangle bounded by Holywell, Meliden and Brynford. Approximate cumulative mileages are given in brackets. More information and photographs for the sites can be found on the website below. Note that some of the places may be difficult for disabled persons to access but they should be able to see most of them. The complete trail should take about 3 hours to complete.

To get to Petrolheads Cafe (SJ212762), head for the junction of the A548 and A5026 at Holywell. Turn in to the petrol filling station opposite the Lyons Den Fitness Centre and the cafe is on the left. There are refreshments and toilets here.

From Petrolheads Café, turn right on the A548 towards Prestatyn, passing straight across a roundabout and the traffic lights in Greenfield.

If you wish to see the first site on foot, the safest thing is to park at the “Packet House” public house just past the traffic lights on the right. Buy a drink and then walk.

Otherwise, after the traffic lights you will approach a small wooded area on the right hand side (1.8). SLOW DOWN BUT DO NOT STOP HERE AS IT IS NOT SAFE.

1	ENGLEFIELD COLLIERY (NGR SJ189781)
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Little is known about this colliery, which was right by the side of the road, except that it closed in 1938. The reason for the closure was supposed to be that it was not connected to the railway to take away its coal, even though the railway was only yards away. Had it managed to survive another year until World War 2, there is no doubt that the Government would have paid to connect it.

WHAT TO SEE

On the left hand side of the road is a bricked up mine level. The main remains are on the right hand side of the road and consist of a Fan House and Engine House, other buildings and features are now collapsed and overgrown. The shaft has been capped by the Coal Authority and covered with gravel.

Continue on the A548 towards Prestatyn and turn right into the car park of the Abakhan materials store (3.1). There are refreshments and toilets here.

2	LLANNERCH-Y-MOR LEAD SMELTER (SJ175791)
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Lead was smelted here from the 17th Century and the works were expanded in the 1750s by building reverberatory furnaces fuelled by coal. The works ceased producing lead in the 1890s but continued to produce ferro-manganese until 1955.

WHAT TO SEE

The large building now used as a fabric store was once part of the lead works. The long building behind and at an angle is believed to have been used to make lengths of lead pipe. Behind the large building is a waterwheel pit, that had a 60ft diameter waterwheel.

On the opposite side of the road, the new factory has been built on the site of the furnaces, although a small original building can be seen by the road. On the other side of the road to "Maes Pennant", a large millpond that powered the waterwheels via a tunnel under the road is hidden by trees.

A short distance up that road is a gate on the right. From the gate, the remains of a 30ft diameter chimney can be seen to the right. It is believed that this was originally 180ft high. This chimney was connected to the smelting furnaces by a flue under the road and around its base is a labyrinth of 6ft high tunnels that used to allow lead oxide to condense so it could be scraped off. The front of the chimney has the date of 1837 on it and also the weathered words "LLANNERCH Y MOR LEAD" barely visible. Only one other example of this type of chimney is believed to exist in the UK, at Brymbo near Wrexham.

Turn right out of the car park and continue along the A548 towards Prestatyn. You pass Mostyn Docks (5.0) on your right hand side and this was the site of the two shafts of Mostyn Colliery. There are no visible remains left.

Continue along the A548 and turn left signposted to "Ffynnongroyw" (6.0). Immediately turn right, again signposted "Ffynnongroyw", and about half way through the village you will see the Community Centre on the left, just before the Railway Inn (6.3).

3	FFYNNONGROYW MINING MEMORIALS (NGR SJ136822)
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A lot of men from this village worked at the Point of Ayr Colliery until it closed in 1996. The colliery site itself has been completely destroyed and a slate memorial in front of the Community Centre was erected in its memory.

WHAT TO SEE

The slate slab with an inscription is in the grounds of the Community Centre and you can go through the gate to get a closer look. It commemorates Point of Ayr Colliery and the men who worked there. There is a plan to erect a better memorial with a winding wheel at the end of the village with a small garden of remembrance.

Continue along the road and, just before it joins the A548, look for a grass triangle on the left hand side (6.8).

A blue-painted stub headgear and winding wheel from Point of Ayr Colliery have been erected here as a memorial.

Turn left along the A548 and continue towards Prestatyn. Turn left onto the A547 signposted "Abergele" (10.4) just after the Nant Hall Hotel and Drivers Garage.

Keep on this road, straight over a mini roundabout and over a bridge. Go past Meliden Golf Club and turn right into the car park of the Miners Arms (12.2). There are refreshments and toilets here.

4	MINERS ARMS, MELIDEN (NGR SJ062809)
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This old pub was originally used by the local lead miners and later on by coal miners who worked at Point of Ayr Colliery.

You have to TURN RIGHT out of the pub car park and go around the one way system to rejoin the main road, where you turn right.

After a short distance you will see Carrs Car Sales on the left hand side. Immediately after this, turn left and park at the rear of a small village green (12.8).

5	MELIDEN MINING MEMORIAL (NGR SJ058805)
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A number of men from the village worked in the local lead mines and later, when they closed, in the coal mines. There is a memorial to them here.

WHAT TO SEE

The memorial consists of a winding wheel, two mine trucks and a coal cutter from Point of Ayr Colliery. There are also plaques with an inscription.

Turn left along the road and drive until you reach the Dyserth Falls Resort on the left (13.2). With their permission, park on the right near the obvious engine house.

6	TALARGOCH MINE (NGR SJ056799)
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Mining probably started here in the late 17th Century and the 1838 tithe map describes the "Dalargoch Engine". This would have been an earlier one than that housed in the existing engine house since this was installed in 1860. It was a huge 100" pumping engine. The mine closed in 1884.

WHAT TO SEE

On the other side of the fence is the large engine house, which is still in relatively good condition and a Listed Building.

Turn left along the A547 and turn left at the traffic lights (13.4) onto the B5119, passing the waterfall on your left (13.6). Go up the hill and, at the traffic lights, go straight across the staggered junction (13.8). After few hundred yards turn left onto "Cwm Road" (14.0).

You will now be treated to nearly 3 miles of panoramic views of the Vale of Clwyd. At a T-junction, turn left (16.7) up the hill, passing under the A55. Near the top of the hill, turn right (17.7) and pass a radio mast on your left. After a short distance, an engine house will appear behind a hedge on the right hand side. Park just past this on the left hand verge (18.0).

7	PENNANT LEAD MINE (NGR SJ087753)
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The mine was worked from the 18th Century and was supposed to have lead ore that had a high silver content. It closed in 1891 but was re-opened between 1913-1920 to extract barytes, which had been left by the earlier miners as they had no market for it.

The deepest shaft was Old Engine Shaft (310ft) and there were also New Engine Shaft (240ft) and Bryn-gwyn Shaft (240ft). Water was pumped up to a drainage level at a depth of 120ft which exited near Pennant House.

WHAT TO SEE

The roofless engine house for the 30" pumping engine on New Engine Shaft can be seen from the road. It is, however, on private land and permission must be sought to get up close to it.

Carry on up the lane and turn left at the crossroads (18.2). Turn left at the T-junction (19.2) and then turn right at the crossroads signposted to "Pen-y-Cefn" (19.4). Turn left at

the crossroads (20.6) onto the B5122 and straight across a roundabout and over the A55 (21.1).

At the next roundabout turn right (21.2) onto the A5026 signposted to "Holywell". Turn right into the car park of The Rock at Lloc pub (22.4). There are toilets and refreshments here.

8	LLOC LEAD MINE (NGR SJ144766)
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The mine is believed to have been worked from the mid-19th Century and originally a horse-operated windlass was in use for winding with a steam engine for pumping. The mine closed in 1893.

WHAT TO SEE

Across the road from the car park you will see a stone-built house. The tall part on the right hand side has been converted from the old engine house.

Turn left out of the car park, then immediately left again at the crossroads and left again at the T-junction (22.6). Turn right just after the church and Druids Arms (23.0), then turn left (23.3) just after a sign for Pantasalph. Cross over the A55 and, immediately on your left, you will see some railings adorned with small metal shovels and horses (24.5).

9	THE HORSE'S LEAP (NGR SJ167753)
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In the 16th Century, a local farmer, Thomas ap Harri, is supposed to have leaped 22 yards on a horse over an open mine shaft for a bet.

WHAT TO SEE

Inside the fence are two small standing stones, said to mark the distance of the leap. In actual fact they have been moved and are 29 yards apart. Between them is a capped mine shaft. The stones have been dated to the Bronze Age and must have been brought here from somewhere else. An interpretation sign explains about the legend.

Continue along the road past Brynford Golf Club (watch out for flying golfballs!) and turn left at the crossroads onto the B5121 signposted "Holywell" (25.3).

On the left is a sculpture of three resting miners that was erected in 2010. It commemorates the men who worked in the local lead mines and quarries. It also acts as a sundial.

Pass under a dual carriageway (25.6) and go straight across the traffic lights (26.4). In Holywell, follow the one-way system round to the right and through some pedestrian traffic lights. Where the road splits, take the right turn on the A5026 signposted "Bagillt" (26.6).

Go through more pedestrian traffic lights and turn left on the A5026 signposted "Bagillt" (26.7). Follow this road down the hill to a T-junction (28.2) opposite the "Boot and Ship" public house. Turn right along the road signposted A548 "Flint".

At the T-junction (28.4) next to the Lyons Den Fitness Centre, go straight across the A548, through the garage forecourt to the Petrolheads Cafe beyond (28.5). You can now enjoy a welcome cup of tea and use the facilities.

1
Englefield
Colliery



2
Llanerch-y-Mor
Smelter



3
Ffynnongroyw
Memorial



7
Pennant Mine



8
Lloc Mine



9
Horse's Leap



4
Miners Arms,
Meliden



5
Meliden Memorial



6
Talargoch Mine

