

Morlais has a long history of occupation owing to its strategic position. It was the site of an Iron Age fort and later was associated with Ilor Bach.

Morlais Castle was built in the 1280's by Gilbert de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan. It is now a ruin, only an outline of the walls and the moat remain on the surface, although an underground crypt still remains intact.

Lord Humphrey De Bohun believed the Castle was built upon his land. This dispute resulted in the Battle of Mases Tumor (see St Gwynno's Trail - Vaynor).

Morlais has a large number of old tramroads and railways because of its historical strategic importance as a routeway north and the abundance of limestone in the area.

Limestone, iron ore and coal can all be found at ground level. This unique combination attracted Anthony Bacon, the first ironmaster to come to Merthyr Tydfil. Tramroads began at Morlais to transport these minerals to the Dowlais, Pengam and Plymouth Ironworks. Both the stone and wooden sleepers used to support the tramroads iron rails are still visible.

The ironmasters needed to create transport systems to bring raw materials to their ironworks and then distribute the iron quickly and efficiently. The steepness of the surrounding countryside made road transport slow and inefficient. Ordinary people were later able to use this accessible form of "public transport" to travel further afield to work and increasingly for leisure use.

The Brecon - Merthyr Tydfil Railway also passed through Morlais along the route that the Brecon Mountain Railway currently travels.

Around 1178 the Isgrugard Welsh Chieftain Ilor Bach led a group of men of Scythian descent into Cardiff Castle kidnapping William Fitzconar, Lord of Glamorgan, his wife and son until his stolen land was returned to him with interest as compensation for the wrongdoing.

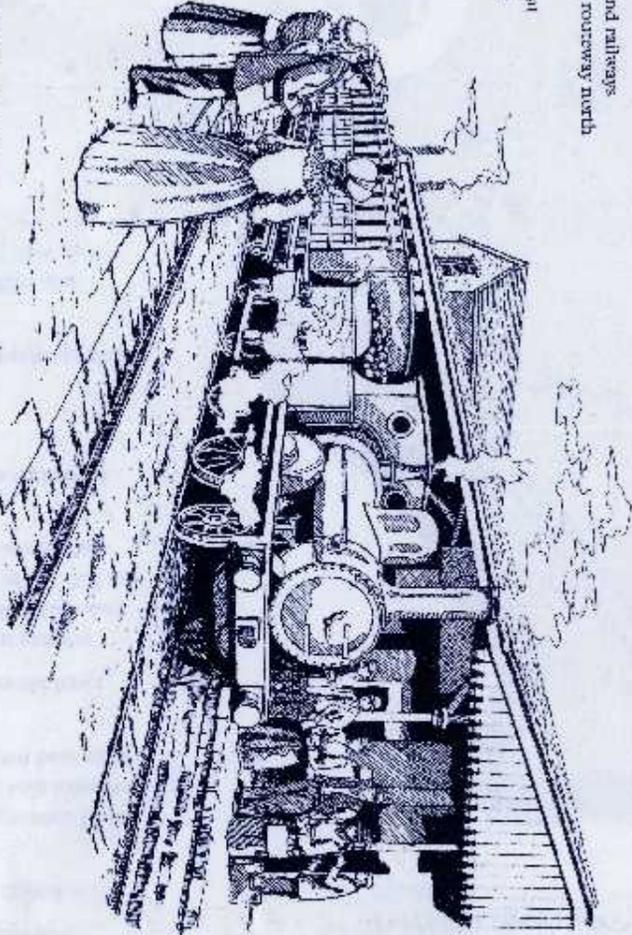
Plant Cemetery was opened in 1849 to cope with the burial of large numbers of cholera epidemic victims.

Brecon Mountain Railway run steam trains on a narrow gauge line between Pont and Porthcill following part of the old route of the Brecon and Merthyr railway which was in operation from the 1860's to the 1960's.

John Leland 1506 - 1552 "Morleisys's castelle stantith in a good valley for corn and grasse"

Factfile / Fffeil Ffithiau

Produced by / Cyhoeddiwyd gan
 Breconwest Member & Board, Cyson Taff an Isgrugard Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trusts, Ynysybwl Iron Heritage Centre, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1AG



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MORLAIS TRAIL

MORLAIS

THIS LEAFLET IS ONE OF A SERIES OF 10 HISTORICAL WALK LEAFLETS IN THE MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH.

MAE'R DAFLEN HON YN LN O GYFRES O 10 O DAFLENNI AR DEUTHIAL CERDDDED IANESYDDOI, YM MWRDEISTREF SIROL MERTHYR.

Further historical information may be found from:
 Gellir cael rhagor o wybodaeth hanesyddol o:

Libraries / Llyfrgelloedd	Merthyr Tydfil01685 723057
	Dowlais01685 723051
	Treharris01443 410517
Museum / Amgueddfa	Cyfarthfa Castle Museum01685 723112
Societies / Cymdeithasau	Amgueddfa Castell Cyfarthfa
	Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society
	Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Merthyr Tudfal Mr. T.F. Hellely, 52 Chester Close, Heolgarth, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1SW.

(Produced a series of Merthyr Historicals Voluems also available in Shirevans.)
 (Writ cyhoeddiadau cyfres o Gyfrolau Hanes Merthyr Tudfal hefyd ar gael mewn dyffwrdd.)

Merthyr Tydfil & District Naturalists Society
 Cymdeithas Naturistwyr Merthyr Tudfal a'r Cylch
 (Produced a series of books on the geology, social, natural history of the area available in Shirevans.)
 (Writ cyhoeddiadau cyfres o lyfrau ar hanes ddiwydiol, cymdeithasol, naturiol y'r ardal, Tudal ar gael mewn dyffwrdd.)

This project has been sponsored by
 Noddwyd y cyflwyno hwn gan

CHILDREN / PLANT:

One hundred people are not allowed to travel from work and play to school and back to school. Trains made it quick, cheap and easy to travel from town to town.

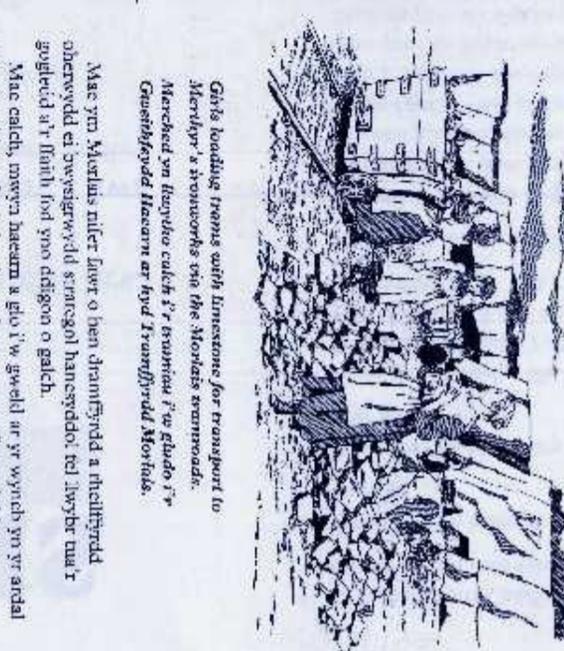
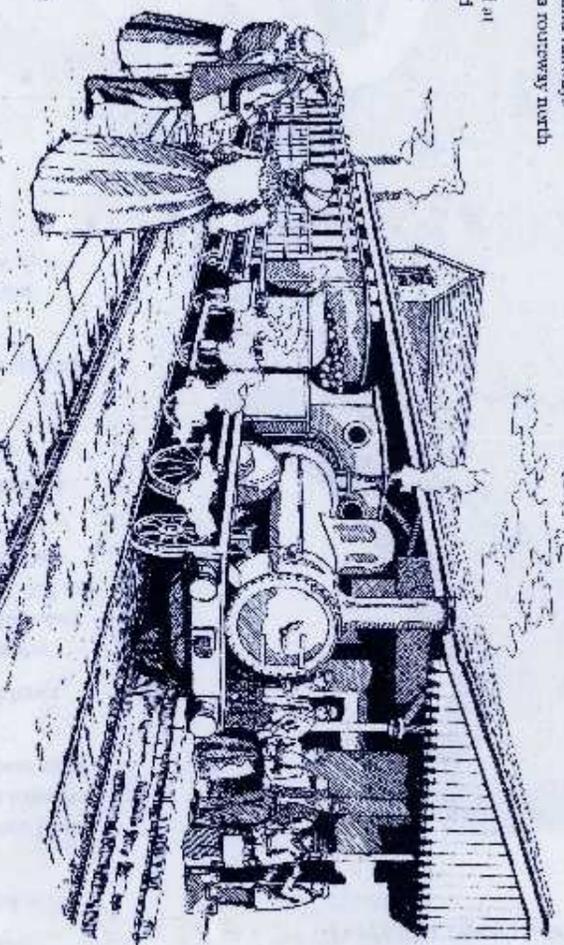
Daytrips or annual Sunday School outings on these trains were special events.

Children from Merthyr Tydfil would have taken a picnic out with them and travelled to Morlais or further along the railway line to the reservoirs. Some children may have taken a boat race, gone to a fair or joined in competitions such as tug of war and running races. A pig's bladder full of air may have been used to play "football" because leather footballs would have been very rare and expensive.

Gan rhyngwyd yn ôl, ni fyddai neb bron yn cael gwyllau o'r swaith, a rheoldd ganddyn nhw ddim llawer o arian, dyos ben i deithio ymhell. Roedd trenau'n golygu et bod yn gyflym, yn rhad ac yn hawdd teithio o'r tref i gefn gwlad.

Roedd teithiau dydd neu driphaw Ysgol Sul Blynyddol ac y trenau hyn yn ddwyddolau arbennig.

Fyddai plant o'r Merthyr Tudfal yn mynd a phienic gyda nhw ac yn teithio i Forlais neu ymhellach ar hyd y rheilffordd ar y cronddol ddiwr. Byddai rhai plant, hwybach, yn mynd allan ar swch, yn mynd i fair neu'n ymuno mewn cystadellau fel minn rheol neu rwyd rwyd. Gallent fod wedi deffnyddio picnec modyn i chwarae "pel-droed" oherwydd byddai pell-pel-droed o ledr yn brin ac yn ddifodol iawn.



John Leland 1506 - 1552 "Morleisys's castelle stantith in a good valley for corn and grasse"

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MORLAIS TRAIL

MORLAIS

Distance: 3 miles (5km) Time: 2 hrs.

The trail starts at Pant Cadfor Inn.

Pellter: 3 milltir (5km) Amser: 2 awr
Mae'r llwybr yn dechrau wrth Dafarn Pant Cadfor.

- Exit the Pant Cadfor Inn turn right and then left up the lane to Morlais Castle Golf Club.
- Continue along entrance road around to the left.
- Continue ahead onto track, following fence and wall boundary.
- After crossing fence line into golf course grounds bear left away from club house. (Beware of golf balls when in grounds and give way to golfers playing). Then bear right past the stone cairn.
- Turn right on to narrow path alongside an old fence.
- Cross the Fairway in front of you and then exit the Golf Course via a stile. (For castle ruins follow boundary fence up to the right along rough track to top of hill. NB no public or permissive path. Retrace your steps to rejoin the main Trail.). Continue down to road.
- Turn right onto road, take next right onto wide track (Old Tramroad).
- Take lower left of two parallel paths.
- At the entrance to the quarry continue up steps to your right. Turn left at top of steps.
- Continue along track to main road turn right and return to the Pant Cadfor Inn. (Beware of cars, short section of road without pavement).

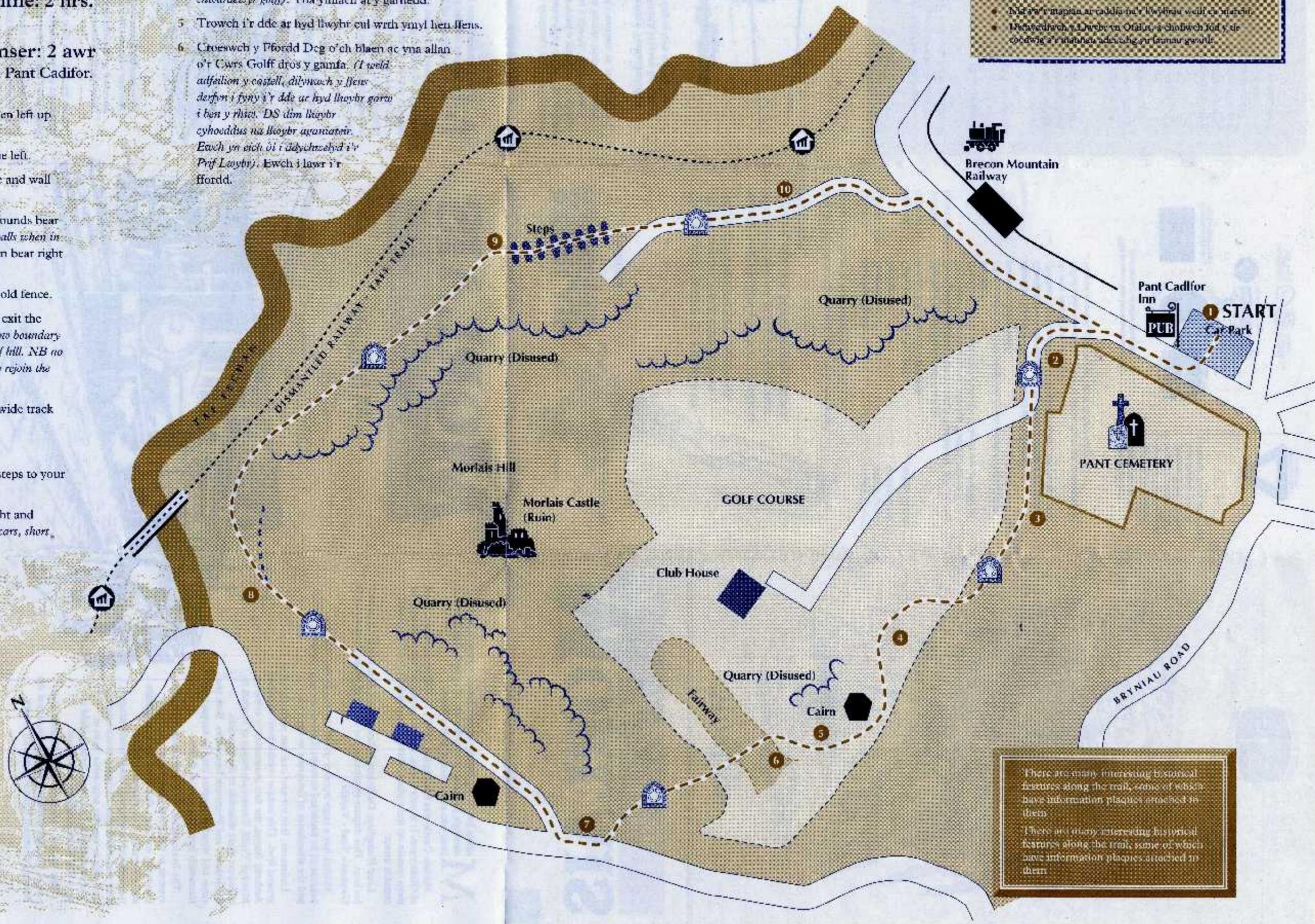
- O Dafarn Pont Cadfor, trowch i'r dde yna i'r chwith i fyny'r lôn at Glwb Golf Castell Morlais.
- Bwch yn eich blaen ar hyd y ffordd fynediad tua'r chwith.
- Ewch yn eich blaen at y llwybr, dilynwch y ffens a'r mur terfyn.
- Ar ôl croesi llinell y ffin i mewn i dir cwrs golff, trowch i'r chwith i ffordd o'r clwb. (Byddwch yn ofalus o bell golff pan fyddwch ar y tir, a phheidwch â tharfu ar chwaraewyr golff). Yna ymlaen at y garnedd.
- Trowch i'r dde ar hyd llwybr cul wrth ymyl hen ffens.
- Croswch y Ffordd Deg o'ch blaen ac yna allan o'r Cwrs Golf dros y gantfa. (I weld atfaision y castell, dilynwch y ffens dechreu i fyny i'r dde ar hyd llwybr gornu i ben y rhise. DS dim llwybr cyhoeddus na llwybr agoriadur. Ewch yn eich ôl i ddyrchwylid i'r Prif Lwybr). Ewch i lawr i'r ffordd.
- Trowch i'r dde i mewn i'r ffordd, yna'r nesaf ar y dde i lwybr llydan (yr Hen Dramfordd).
- Cymerwch y llwybr isaf ar y chwith o'r ddau lwybr.
- Wrth y fynedfa i'r chwarel, ewch i fyny'r grisiau ar y dde. Trowch i'r chwith ar ben y grisiau.
- Ewch ar hyd y llwybr at ffordd fawr, trowch i'r dde ac yn ôl at Dafarn Pont Cadfor. (Byddwch yn ofalus a geir, gan fod rhan fer o'r ffordd heb bumed).

Notes:

- Distances and times are approximate and do not include stops.
- When suitable the terrain surfaces may be wet and muddy.
- Maps are not to scale and routes are not watermarked.
- Use this trail with care, being aware that the forestry land and other areas are working environments.

Notations:

- Blue dots show the location of the inn and the golf club.
- Green dots show the location of the quarry.
- Red dots show the location of the castle ruins.
- Blue dots show the location of the cairn.
- Blue dots show the location of the stone cairn.
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There are many interesting historical features along the trail, some of which have information plaques attached to them.

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