



**ARCHAEOLOGY  
WALES**

**WELSH HERITAGE TRAIL**



**WELSH HERITAGE TRAIL**

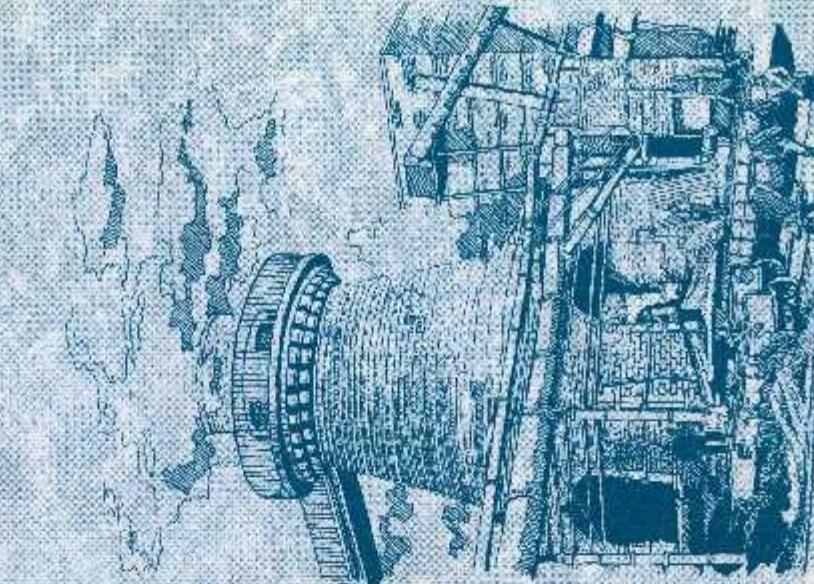
**WELSH HERITAGE TRAIL**

ARCHAEOLOGY  
WALES

# GUEST TRAIL

6

## DOWLAIS



One of the reasons why so much iron was made in this area is that all the vital ingredients were nearby - iron ore, limestone, plenty of wood to make charcoal, coal and fast rivers for water power.

John Guest was installed as Dowlaus Ironworks manager in 1767, the Ironworks were then inherited first by Thomas Guest then John Josiah Guest who helped Dowlaus overtake Cyfarthfa Ironworks as the biggest in the world. The village of Dowlaus owes

# GUEST TRAIL

## DOWLAIS



Women and girls were often used to break up large pieces of limestone for use in the furnaces.  
*Defododd gwebydd a merched o'r und y ffordd ddeunaw mawr o goeden i'r ddyfeyddion ym y Gwaithyddiaid Hácarn.*

Its existence to the "Guest" Ironworks, J.J. Guest employed about 10,000 people including women and children. He was later a Member of Parliament and was knighted. In 1839 the Iron Works were built to keep pace with demand for rails. His wife, Lady Charlotte had 10 children and kept detailed diaries.

**U**n o'r rhestrau pain zoedd cymaint o hawser yn cael ei gynnwys yn yr ardal hon oedd fod yr olfonau hanfodol i gild ar gael gerllaw - mwyn haearn, calch, digon o gued i wneud siroedd, glu ac ator yd cylwm i synhyrchi pwerau.

Dach John Guest yn rhosolwr Gwaith Haearn Dowlaus ym 1767. Hefeddyw y gwaith haearn yn gysyllt gan Thomas Vaughan Josiah John Guest, a fu'n helpu Dowlaus i ddechu Gwaith Haearn Cyfarthfa fel y gwaith trwmol yn y byd. Mae penrhyn Dowlaus yn bodoli heoddw i ffwrdd y Gwaith Haearn "Giant".

Baid J.J. Guest yn cyflwyno 10,000 o hawl gan gymwys merched a phlant, ac yn ddiweddarach fe'i gwnaed yn sedd

'The Guests were well known in the community, they helped to improve the health, education and life of the workers providing them with a school, library and church. J.J. Guest, kept his Merrvyn and Abergavenny constituency seat from December 1812 until his death in 1852.'

The family became ennobled and the present descendant is Lord Winbourne.

William Menclaus was General Manager for the Dowlaus Iron Works from 1851 and was awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal in 1881 for his achievements.

Yn 1821 Dowlaus produced rails for the first passenger railway Stockton & Darlington and the major railways of the world. In the 1830's Dowlaus became the largest in the world and later grew into Great Western and Westfield. The first ever steam shovel was invented by Adrain Stevens a Dowlaus Ironworker.

The earliest Welsh mythological tales of the Mabinogion were published in Progrist, by Iolo Morganwg Guest, later being translated to Welsh scholars.

## FAC'THIF / FITHI FFEITHIAD:

In 1821 Dowlaus produced rails for the first passenger railway Stockton & Darlington and the major railways of the world.

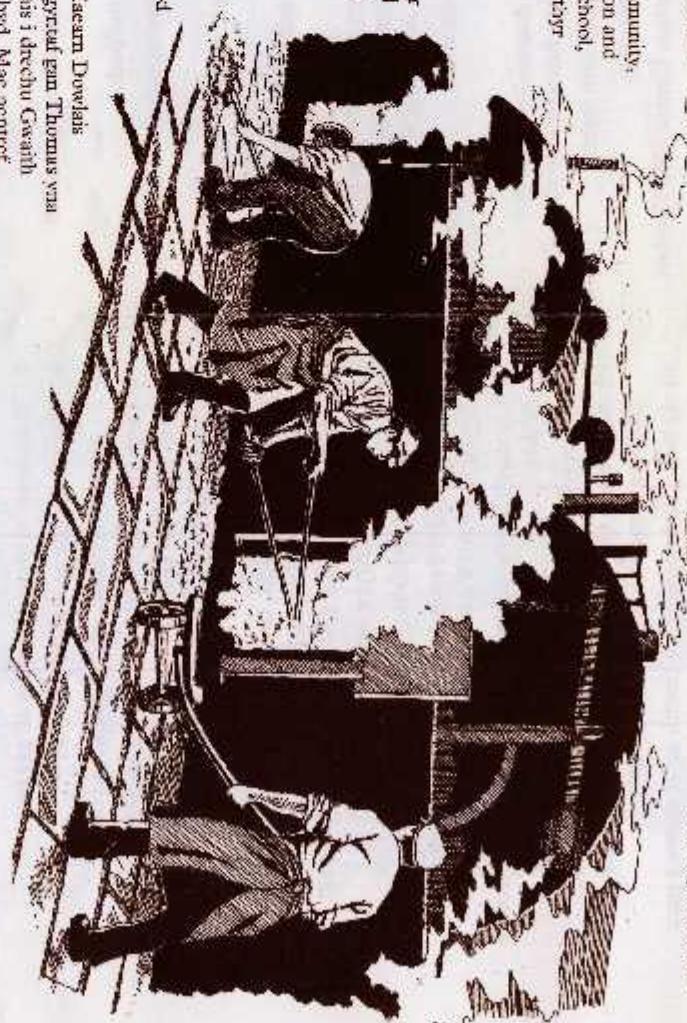
In the 1830's Dowlaus became the largest in the world and later grew into Great Western and Westfield.

The first ever steam shovel was invented by Adrain Stevens a Dowlaus Ironworker.

The earliest Welsh mythological tales of the Mabinogion were

Pudding - part of the iron making process.

Puddlo - rhaw o'r brosses o tuned haearn.



"Mr. Menclaus' professional history during the past 30 years may be said to be the history of Dowlaus. How the works grew under his management is known to all concerned with the iron and steel trade, and the growth has not been in size merely but in completeness and in process of varied production".

## INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS 1881.

### SEFYDLIAD Y PIRMANWYR MECANHYDDOL 1881

Adrian Stevens' Steven Whistle.

Chairman Major Adrian Stevens.

## CHILDREN / PLANT:

Iron is a very useful metal it is often used in the production of machines, tools, weapons and vehicles. It takes very high temperatures to make it out of a type of rock called iron ore.

Dowlaus Ironworks was the largest iron producer in the world about 120 years ago.

Many children helped to make the iron but the work was very dangerous and hot. Women often wore men's breeches as it was so hot that the heat would have burnt through normal shoes.

The Guest family who were fish owners of the ironworks, built schools in Dowlaus with their own money and the help of friends.

Children liked going to these schools, even though they were very strict. It was much more enjoyable than working long hours in the hot and dirty ironworks.

Male haearn yn ferol deiliol i ddilysau i ddilysu i gynhyrchiol pentraffan, oherwydd ar y cerbydau dan. Mae angen rhwng cerbydau aherwydd i w'nni aethol, d'fach a gradd a cleiri yn ferol haearn.

Gwaith haearn Dowlaus yddest y gwaith mwyaf yn y dref tra 1820 o hyd y cyfnod yma. Byddai nifer o plant yn hysbiniol haearn, ond maeodd y gwaith yn berthnasol iawn i sicrhau llawn i gwisgo cleciaisiau pren gan fod y gwaith mor llawn fel y byddai i gwisgo weith i ffug dros cerbydau eiddoedd.

Cododd J.J. Guest, pellach amgylchedd y gwaith haearn, raglwm ym Mawblais wrth i ffwrdd i ddiwrth i ddiwrth cerbydion.

Byddai gwaith yn holl argraff i gwisgo haearn, er en hawd haearn ymhael i'r gwaith cerbydion.

Wen i lawr. Roedd hi'n lloegr yn wch haearn ymhael i'r gwaith cerbydion.

**Produced by /  
Cymdeithas Cyhoeddus  
Gwyddonol Marchnad &  
Rhombiliaethon Trefor  
Llantrisant, Rhondda Cynon  
Taff, ym Mhryd y Tywi  
Ironbridge Gorge  
Iron Heritage Centre,  
Merrydale, Trefor, CF48 1AQ**



This project has been sponsored by  
Boskalis UK Ltd & gas



MERRYL LTD  
IRON BRIDGE  
IRON HERITAGE  
CENTRE



IRONBRIDGE  
GORGE  
IRON  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE

# GUEST TRAIL

## DOWLAIS

**Distance:** 3 miles (5km) **Time:** 1hr.

The trail starts at Dowlais Stables, Market Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

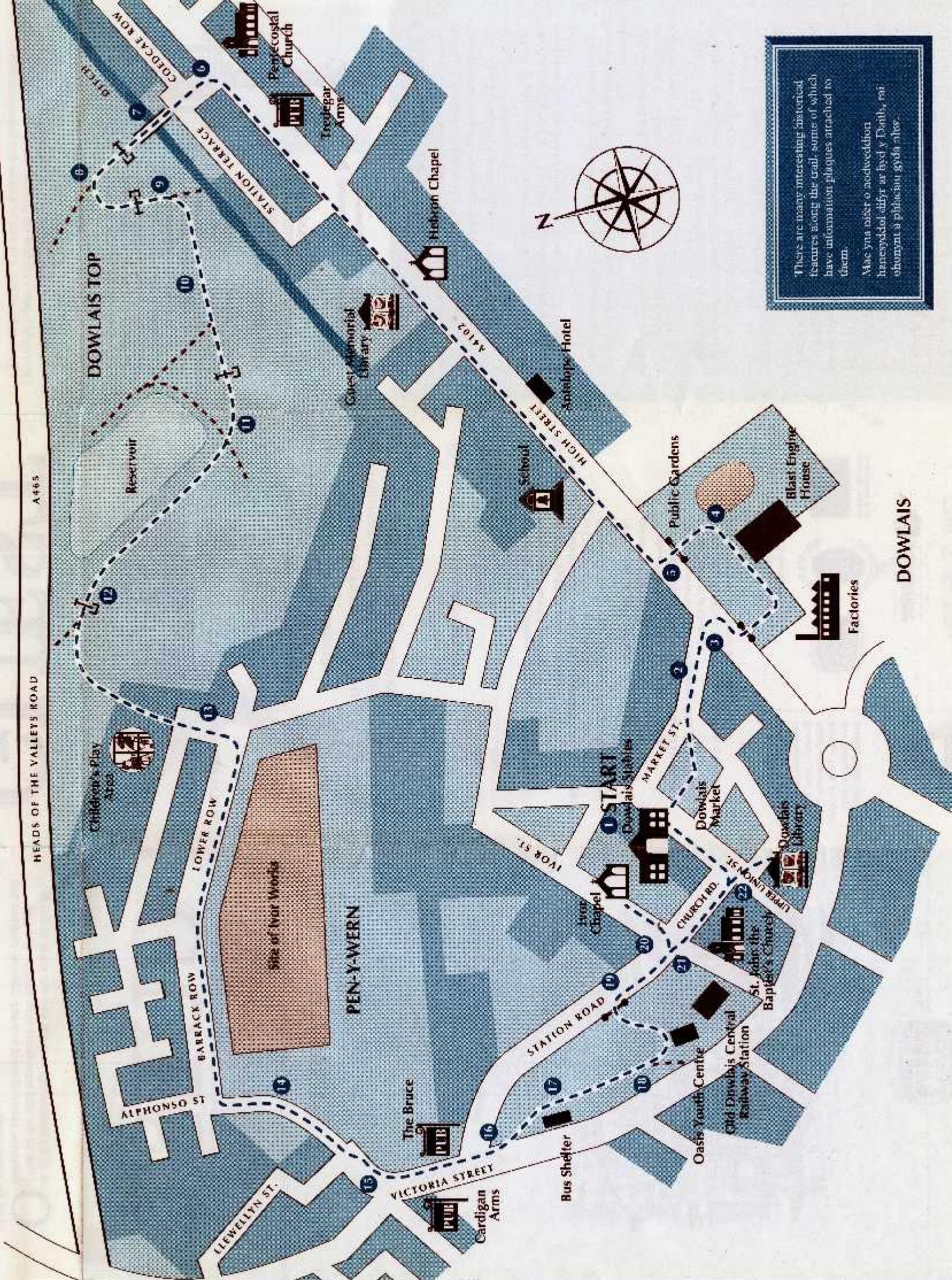
**Pelletier:** 3 milltir (5km) **Amser:** 1awr

Mac'r lwybr yn cychwyn wrth Stablau Dowlais, Market Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

- Distances and times are approximate and do not include stops.
- Wear suitable footwear as surfaces may be wet and muddy.
- Magnets are used in walls and houses so do not mark.
- Use this map when sure, being aware that the survey lines and points of course are working environments.
- Watch out for children playing and dogs.
- Children's playgrounds and amusements are not included in this guide.
- Nut & Veg map: an area of land between the two main roads.
- Dolyddwch y lwybr yn Ofelia, a shop near the footbridge across the River Taff.
- Cofrestru o comunitiau a ddiwydion yr ardal yn golygu bod y lwybr'n ddilys i'w ddefnyddio.

- 1 With your back to the entrance of the stables walk straight ahead, down through the gardens. Exit through the archway in the bottom left corner. Continue to end of the road.
- 2 Cross the main road (High Street) and turn right.
- 3 Take the first left into gardens around the Dowlais Blast Engine House.
- 4 Turn left to exit gardens through decorative iron gate back on to High Street.
- 5 Turn right and continue uphill passing Hillside and Guest Memorial Library and Hebrew Chapel.
- 6 After passing Tredegar Arms turn left opposite the Pentecostal Church.
- 7 Cross over the ditch straight ahead and through the wooden kissing gate ahead.
- 8 Take the next left, pass through a second wooden kissing gate.
- 9 Turn right at the bottom of the path.
- 10 Continue straight ahead, pass through a third wooden kissing gate.
- 11 Continue straight on then bear right to the far end of the reservoir along its bank.
- 12 Turn down to your left and exit the field through a final wooden kissing gate.
- 13 At the bottom of the road turn right into Lower Row, continue into Barrack Row turning left down a footpath at the junction with Alphonso St.
- 14 Continue down the steep footpath.
- 15 Turn left at the bottom.
- 16 Take the small path leading diagonally upwards behind the bus shelter opposite Fish and Chip Shop.
- 17 When the path joins a level path turn right.
- 18 Take a left turn at a fork in the path.
- 19 Head for the Dowlais Recreation Centre (Old Dowlais Central Station) stone building.
- 20 At the top of the slope turn left and cross the car park. Exit the grounds through the gateway.
- 21 Turn right into Station Road. (Take first left to new Ffur Chapel, then rejoin the Trail).
- 22 Turn left back to Dowlais Stables.

- 1 A ch cerf ar y fynedfa, ewch yn eich blaen i lawr dŵr y gerddi. Allan o dan y bwa yn y cornel isaf ar y chwith. Ewch ymlaen i ddiwedd y ffordd.
- 2 Greswch y brif ffordd (High Street) a thro i'r de.
- 3 Cynaf ar y chwith i mewn i'r gerddi o gymysg Ty Pertiau Dowlais.
- 4 Trowch i'r de arall o'r gerddi dŵr y gât haearn addurniedig ac yn ôl i High Street.
- 5 Trowch i'r de ac ymlaen i fyny'r rhwng heibio Llyfgeil Gorslas Hillside a Guest, a Chapel Hebrew.
- 6 Ar ôl nistred helbiol Tredegar Arms trwywch i'r chwith gŵerbyn a'r Ffugwyn Bentrennol.
- 7 Greswch y flos ac yn eich blaen a thrwy'r gât bron o'r blaen.
- 8 Y tu'n esol ar y chwith, dŵr y gât bron.
- 9 Trowch i'r de ar waclod y llywyr.
- 10 Ewch yn eich blaen, dŵr y dyledd gât bron.
- 11 Ewch yn eich blaen yna i'r deid i ben pellafy gronfa dŵr ar hyd ei blawnau.
- 12 Trowch i lawr i'r chwith ac allan o'r cas dŵr y gât bron o'r saf.
- 13 Ar waclod y ffordd, trowch i'r de ac i mewn i Lower Row, ymlaen i Barrack Row gan dro i'r chwith i lawr y bocwr tried wedi y gyffordd ag Alphonso Street.
- 14 Ewch i lawr y llywyr serth.
- 15 Trowch i'r chwith ar y gweledol.
- 16 Ewch ar hyd y llywyr bach i fwy to ol yr arbwslan bysau gyferbyn a'r stop pysgod a sgofdon.
- 17 Lle mai'r lwybr yn ymuno â llywyr gwastad, trwch i'r dŵr.
- 18 Trowch i'r chwith wrth ffwrch yn y llywyr.
- 19 Amlawch at Ganolfan Hamdden Dowlais (ben Orsaf Ganolog Dowlais), yr adeilad carreg.
- 20 Ar ben y lleswr trowch i'r chwith ac ar draws y parc ceir Ewch allan dŵr y gât.
- 21 Trowch i'r deid i mewn i Station Road. (Y nesaf ar y chwith i'r wylod Capel Ifor, yma'n ddiwethol i lawr y llywyr).
- 22 Trowch i'r chwith ym ôl at Stablau Dowlais.



There are many interesting historical features along the trail, some of which have information plaques attached to them.

Amac yna niwr o nododdion hanesyddol diffyw ar ffordd y Ddwli, rai sylweddol yw'r ffwrch i'r gât bron.