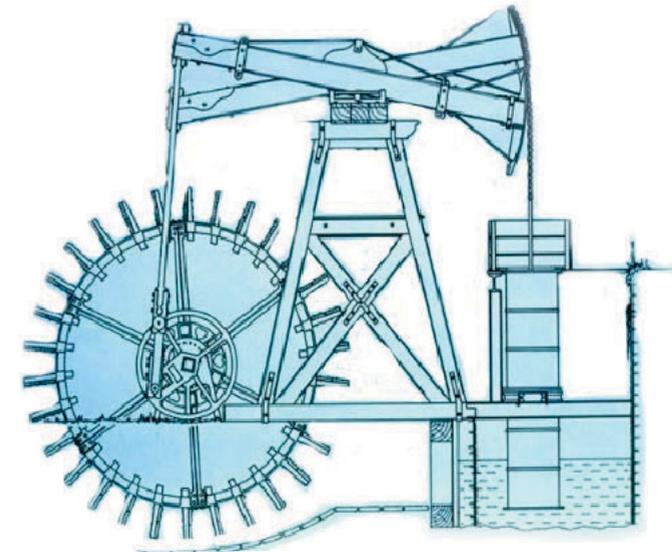


Village Walks

1. INDUSTRIAL RADYR



Melingriffith Water wheel

This Walk starts at Radyr Station taking you through the heartland of Radyr's Industrial history over the river along the tramway, the feeder and the canal passed Radyr Weir, the Melingriffith water wheel, the Norman motte and bailey and the first station in the Parish, Pentyrch Halt; before it ends at Pughs Garden Village and the Ty Nant Inn. The walk is approximately four miles and should Take around 1½ hours at a leisurely pace.

Walk 1: Industrial Radyr

1. Standing at the entrance to Radyr station you see the new development, The Chantry, built on Radyr Yard. The Taff Vale Railway was opened in the 1840's to carry iron from the works around Merthyr to Cardiff Docks. It quickly became used to carry coal to the docks. Cardiff docks became incapable of accommodating the volume of coal and Radyr Yard was built where wagons could wait until a space became available at the docks. At its height it was the largest marshalling yard west of Swindon. In an attempt to alleviate the congestion a new port was built at Penarth with a direct link from Radyr Yard, now the City Line. In 1840 there was no village of Radyr and the present station was built in 1867. With the building of the station many "docksmen" built houses in the area as it was convenient to reach the docks by train, the origin of modern Radyr.

Go under the tunnel beneath the railway. The first railway was single track and you can see in the brickwork of the tunnel the various extensions to the line. Cross the river bridge and head north along the river.

2. From the late 1700's a tramway connected the ironworks at Gwaelod y Garth to Melingriffith. The tramway followed the river and a restored section of the tramway can be seen about ½ a mile along the path on your right. At first it was horse drawn but later a small locomotive was used.

3. You next come to Radyr Weir built in the 1780's to divert water into the feeder which took water to the Melingriffith works. The weir is built on the site of a medieval fish trap. A salmon race has been added to the weir to allow the salmon, which are returning to the cleaned up Taff in increasing numbers, to get upstream. Just beyond the weir you can see the newly restored workings which controlled the flow of water into the feeder. Until the iron bridge was built, the iron was brought to a landing stage at Gelynis Farm and then floated down to Melingriffith along the river and the feeder in shallow bottomed boats called "tubs".

4. Turn right and follow the north bank of the feeder. After about ½ a mile you come to two hides, part of the Forest Farm nature reserve, where a wide selection of wildlife can be seen including herons and kingfishers.

Follow the feeder on your right and the canal on your left. When you get to the entrance to the canal follow the river for about ½ a mile until you get to the Melingriffith water wheel.

5. Melingriffith was a medieval corn mill that was converted into an ironworks in the 1700's and became a major tin plate works closing in the 1950's. The wheel, all that is left of the works, used to pump water from the canal into the tin plate works. It has recently (2010) been restored. Retrace your footsteps to the entrance to the canal. Follow the canal for a little over one mile. This is the only section of the Glamorganshire Canal still holding water. It was built in the 1780's to carry iron from the Merthyr area to Cardiff. Because of the terrain it was never very successful above "Navigation" - modern Abercynon. When you get to the end of this section of the canal head west and rejoin the footpath along the river.

6. Head north along the path, under the motorway bridge, until you come to the Iron Bridge. This bridge was built to allow the uninterrupted movement of iron from Gwaelod y Garth to Melingriffith.

7. Your path crosses the farmyard at Gelynis, but before you do this notice the tramway leading off to your right. Gelynis Farm is the second oldest building in the parish and was built in the 1570's for Hugh Lambert, a Sussex iron master brought to Radyr by the Mathew family, the Tudor Lords of the Manor of Radyr. It was Lambert who developed the first iron works and the foundry at Gwaelod y Garth. Cross the Taff Vale Railway and follow the track ahead. When you get to the stream - Nant y Garth - follow the stream along the side of the Mound playing field. This will take you passed the Motte and Bailey, part of the first Norman frontier dating to the 1090's. It is the best preserved in the area and once guarded the entrance to the Taff valley.

8. As you walk along the stream notice the large house on the railway line. This was the first station in the parish called Pentyrch Halt (Morganstown was still developing and had not been given its present name).

Your walk will end at Pugh's Garden Village where refreshments and food can be obtained. Across the road is the Ty Nant Inn, dating to at least the early 1700's where food and drinks are served all day.

Walk 1: Industrial Radyr



4. Heron at the hide



3. Radyr Weir



2. Steam train on tramway



1. Radyr Yard



8. Pentyrch Halt



7. Iron Bridge



6. Gelynis Farm



5. Melingriffith Wheel

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