

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gogledd Cymru yn un o blith 47 o Ymddiriedolaethau Natur ledled y DG ac yn un o blith y 6 Ymddiriedolaeth Natur yng Nghymru. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn elusen gofrestredig, yn dibynnu ar gefnogaeth ein haelodau a rhoddion.

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gogledd Cymru yn:

- buddsoddi yn y dyfodol drwy helpu pobl o bob oed i werthfawrogi a deall bywyd gwylt yn well
- prynu a rheoli gwarchodfeydd natur
- ymgymryd phrosiectau sydd o fudd i fywyd gwylt mewn trefi ac yng nghefn gwlad
- herio datblygiadau sy'n bygwnh y cynefinoedd bywyd gwylt
- gweithio gyda'r cyhoedd, cymunedau, perchnogion tir, cyngorau lleol ac eraill i warchod bywyd gwylt ar gyfer y dyfodol

The North Wales Wildlife Trust is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK and one of 6 Welsh Wildlife Trusts. We are a registered charity, dependent on the support of our members and donations.

The North Wales Wildlife Trust

- invests in the future by helping people of all ages to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of wildlife
- acquires and manages nature reserves
- undertakes projects to benefit wildlife in towns and countryside
- challenges developments which threaten wildlife habitats
- works with the public, communities, landowners, local councils and others to protect wildlife for the future

Os hoffech helpu i gefngoi cadwraeth bywyd gwylt drwy ddod yn aelod neu'n wirfoddolwr, neu os hoffech wybodaeth am warchodfeydd natur lleol, cysylltwch:

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ger Yr Wyddgrug

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If you would like to help support wildlife conservation by becoming a member or volunteer, or would like information about local nature reserves, please contact:

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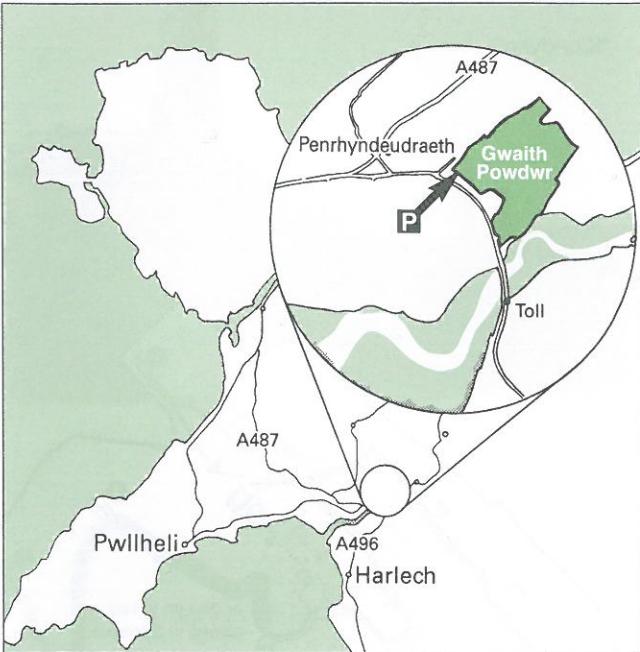
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### Lleoliad

Wedi lleoli'n agos at Benhyndeudraeth, ym mhen dwyreiniol pont Briwet, sef tollbont Harlech. Gall gyrraedd y warchodfa hon drwy y parc busnes.

Pwrpas y daflen hon yw goleuo, drwy daith dywys, ychydig o hanes y safle. Fe gewch ddarganfod fanylion pellach ar y paneli ar hyd y daith. Er bod y rhan fwyaf o'r llwybrau drwy'r warchodfa mewn cyflwr da, mae rhai yn rhy serth i bram a chadair olwyn, ond fe nodwyd y rhain ar y map mewnol. Drwy y safle caiff nifer offyrdd cul. a gall dalwyr bathodynau oren a glas (drwy drefniant o flaen llaw) yrru o amgylch y warchodfa.

### Location

Near Penhyndeudraeth, at the eastern end of the Harlech toll, this reserve can be reached through the Business Park.

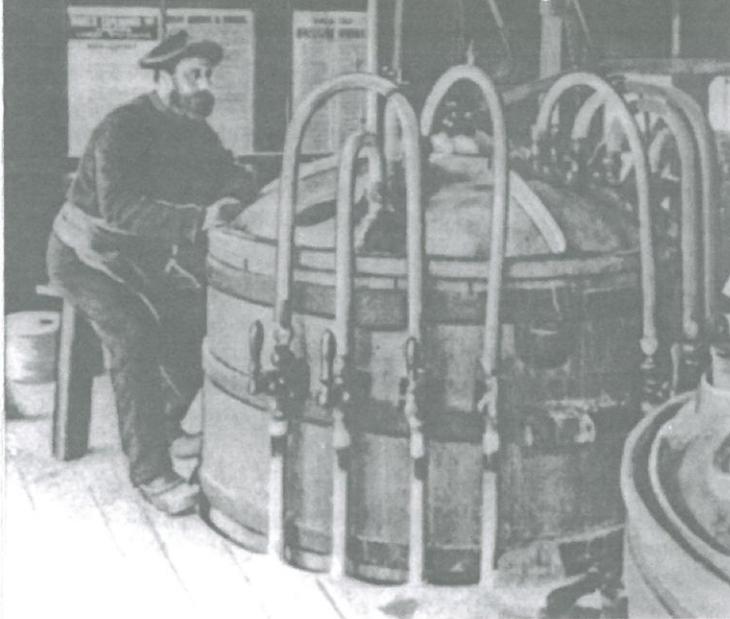
The aim of this leaflet is to inform you, via a guided walk, of something of the site's history. You will be able to find more information on the panels along the walk. Although most paths through the reserve are in good condition, some are too steep or uneven for prams or wheelchairs, these are marked on the map inside. There are narrow roads throughout the site, so orange badge holders can (by appointment) drive around the nature reserve.

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur  
**Gogledd Cymru**  
**North Wales**  
Wildlife Trust



# Gwaith Powdwr

## Hanes • History



Ar un adeg Gwaith Powdwr oedd y ffatri cynhyrchu ffrwydron mwyaf technegol yn Ewrop, a daethpwyd yn ddiweddarach i arbenigo mewn ffrwydron i ddiwylliant mwyngloddiaeth. Gan nad oedd galwad am y ffrwydron, caewyd y gwaith yn 1995.

Gwaith Powdwr was once the most high tech explosives factory in Europe, most recently specialising in safety explosives used in mining. As the need for these explosives diminished, the works closed in 1995.

**Gwarchod Bywyd Gwylt ar gyfer y Dyfodol**  
Protecting Wildlife for the future

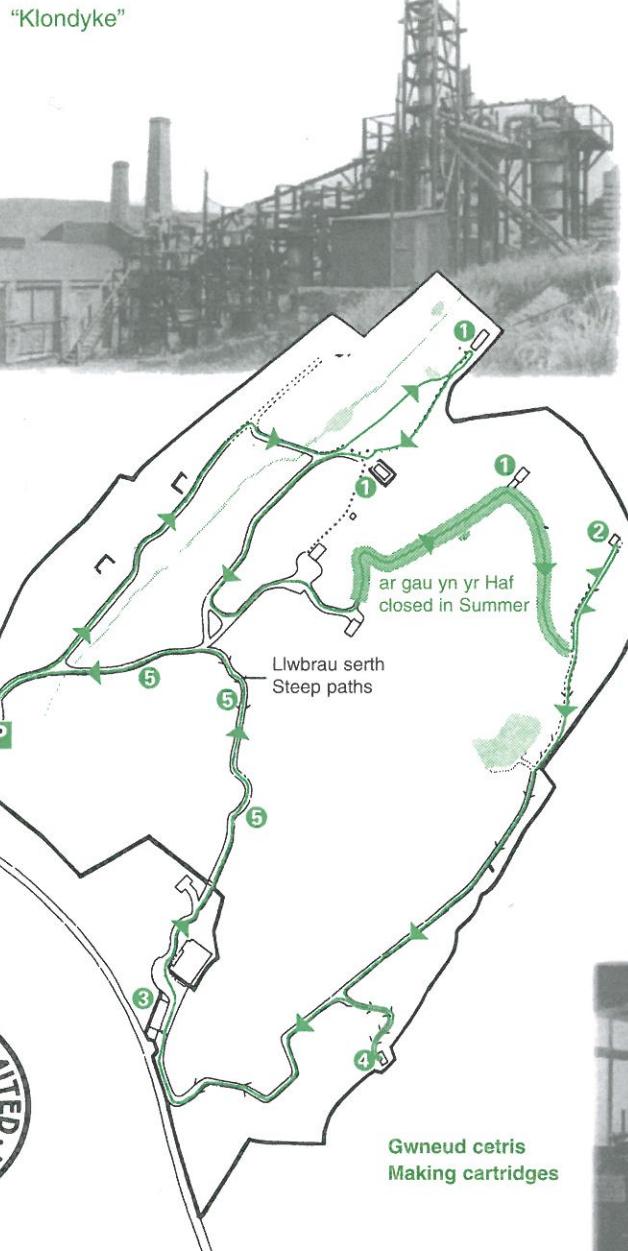
Cynhyrchwyd y ffrwydron cyntaf ar y safle yn 1865. Yn y dechrau, cynhyrchu "Guncotton" defnydd wedi mwydo mewn nitro-glycerine ac asid sylffwric ac wedi ei adael i sychu - ac yna, bellach ymlaen TNT. Yn ystod y Rhyfeloedd Byd roedd y safle yn cynhyrchu ffrwydron milwrol ac arfogaeth - yn 1915 cymerwyd y cyfrifoldeb dros y safle o ddwyo Ergite Ltd. gan yr Adran Arfau Milwrol (Ministry of Munitions) yn dilyn ffrwydriad anferth pan chwalwyd y safle. Yn dilyn hyn fe dynhawyd y rheolau diogelwch drwy y D.U. Wedi cau y safle, dros dro, rhwng 1918 a 1922, fe werthwyd y safle i Cooke's Explosives Ltd. Drwy gydol yr ail ryfel byd cynhyrchwyd 5000 tunnell o ffrwydron milwrol, llenwyd 17 miliwn o granades a chynhyrchwyd 31 miliwn o ddetonators yn o gystal a 24000 tunnell o ffrwydron masnachol (i'r diwylliant mwyngloddaeth). Yn y 50au ar ymddeoliad Mr Cooke, fe brynwyd y cwmni gan ICI.

Penderfynwyd ar y safle am dri rheswm; 1. y pellter o bob man, a'r ffaith ei fod wedi rhannu yn dri dyffryn, hyn yn rhoi amddiffyniad naturiol os digwydd ffrwydriad. Dyffryn Klondyke, wedi enwi ar 61 yr amrywiaeth o beipiau a oedd angen ar y broses gynhyrchu. Hyn yn rhoi arolwg tref o gyfnod y "gold-rush" yn yr Amerig. Yma y cynhyrchwyd y nitro-glycerine. Yn Nyffryn Cooke roeddent yn llenwi y ceris gyda ffrwydriadd ac yn Nyffryn Diogel y Mwynwyr roeddent yn gwneud llawer o weithrediadau yn cynnwys cynhyrchu'r detonators a'i harbrofi. 2. Gan fod y safle mewn rhai llefydd yn serth fe roedd hyn yn gwneud hi'n haws symud y nitro-glycerine dan bwysau disgrychiant o'r tanciau sefydlogi hyd at y golchfeydd - y ffodd saffaf o bell ffodd. 3. Y ffaith y bod hi'n bosibl cludo'r defnydd crai ac allforio'r ffrwydron gorffenegig ar y môr o Porthmadog, i gwsmeriaid ar hyd a lled y byd.

Y cyflogwr mwyaf ym Mhenrhundeudraeth ers y 50au, gyda 500 yn gweithio yno yn y 60au. Yn y 70au, yma oedd y safle mwyaf blaenllaw o'i bath yn Ewrop, yn arbenigo mewn "ffrwydron diogel". Erbyn diwedd y 70au roedd y dirywiad yn y diwydiant glo, a hefyd gwelliannau mewn ffrwydron yn argoeli yn ddrwg gan olygu lleihad yn y gofyn am ffrwydron wedi ei sylfaenu ar nitro-glycerine a gynhyrchwyd yma. Daeth cynhyrchu i ben yn 1995.

Cafwyd y safle ei ddad-gomisiynu, ar gost o 6 miliwn a dihaintiwyd yr adeiladau gan dan, er mwyn ffrwydro unrhyw nitro-glycerine roedd ar ôl. Golchwyd y lloria plwm gyda chemegau niwtraleiddio ffrwydron a'i codi. Yn o gystal fe ddymchwelwyd rhai o'r adeiladau, yr olion rwbwl nawr yn prysur cael ei gartrefu gan fywyd gwylt.

Fe adawyd yr adeiladau diddorol yn sefyll, mae'r map yn dangos taith i chwi archwilio'r safle. Yma ac acw o gwmpas y safle mae byrddau dehongli. Byrddau yng nglyn a'r bywyd gwylt a hanesion yr adeiladau unigol.



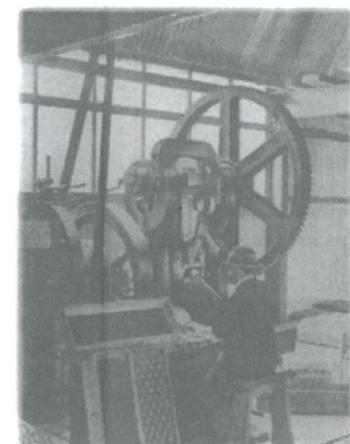
- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Cwt y Ffrwydron   | ① Explosives Shed   |
| Cwt y Pendil Mawr | ② Pendulum Shed     |
| Storfa Belfast    | ③ Belfast Store     |
| Y Sied Setio      | ④ The Settling Shed |
| Cysgod Argyfwng   | ⑤ Emergency Shelter |

This site started producing explosives in 1865. Initially it made Guncotton, and then later TNT. During the World Wars the site produced munitions - in 1915 responsibility for the site was taken away from Ergite Ltd. by the Ministry of Munitions, following a massive explosion that destroyed the site. After this explosion the Health & Safety regulations were tightened throughout the U.K. After temporary closure of the site, between 1918 and 1922, it was sold to Cooke's Explosives Ltd. During the Second World War, 5000 tons per year of munitions were produced, 17 million grenades were filled and 31 million detonators were produced as well as 24000 tons of commercial explosives (mostly for the mining industry). In the 50's, upon Mr Cooke's retirement, the company was purchased by ICI.

There were three reasons for choosing the site;

1. the remoteness and the fact that the site was divided into three valleys, gave a natural defence against blast. Klondyke Valley (named because the piping required for production resembled a gold-rush town), produced nitro-glycerine. In Cooke's Valley they filled the cartridges with the explosives and in the Miner's Safety Valley several processes were undertaken which included detonator testing and manufacture.
2. The steepness of the site made it easier to move the nitro-glycerine by gravity from the settlement tanks to the washing tanks - by far the safest method.
3. The raw materials required for manufacture and the finished explosives could be transported by sea. Explosives were exported from Porthmadog, to customers all over the world.

In the 1950's the company was the largest employer in the area and in the 1960's had a work force of 500. In the 70's, this site was the most advanced in Europe, specialising in the manufacture of "Safety Explosives". By the end of the 70's the decline in the coal industry, as well as new developments in explosives meant that there was a falling demand for the nitro-glycerine based explosives produced here. Production ceased in 1995.



The site was decommissioned, at a cost of £6 million. Buildings were decontaminated by fire, to explode any residual nitro-glycerine. The lead floors were washed with neutralising chemicals and removed. In addition some of the buildings were demolished, leaving areas of rubble, which are now being colonised by wildlife.

Some especially interesting buildings were left. The map shows a walk that you may like to take to explore the site. Around the site you will see interpretation boards about individual buildings and wildlife.