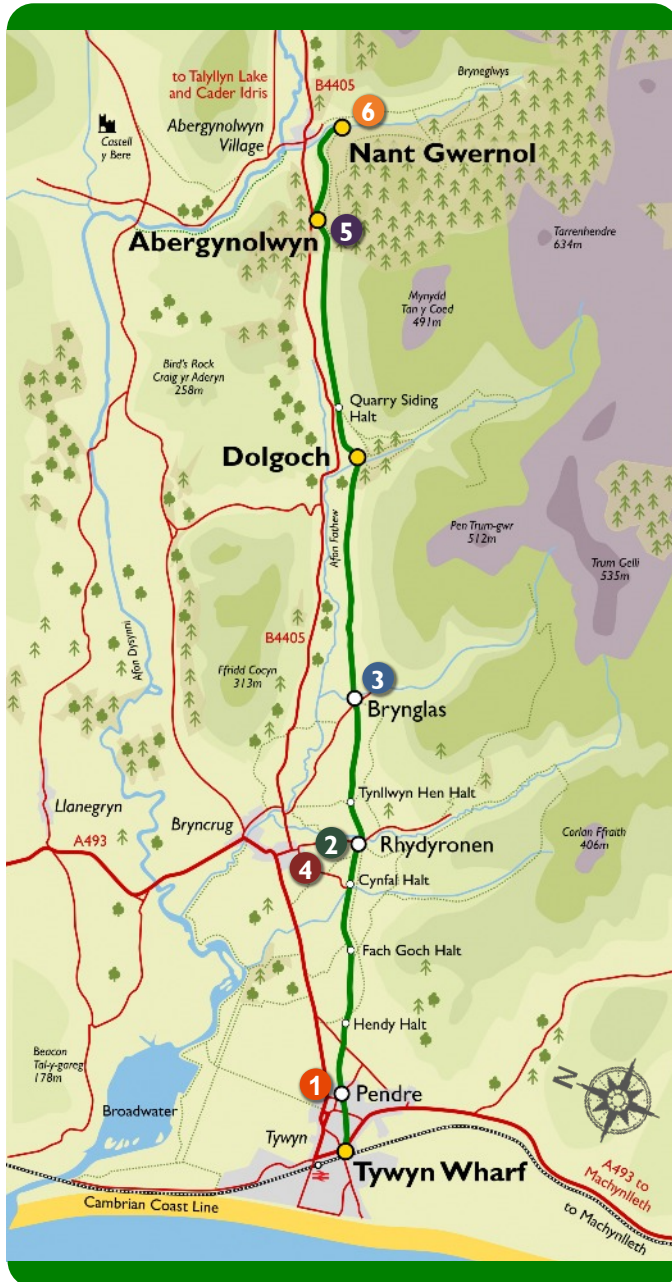


# Rheilffordd Talyllyn Railway ROUTE MAP



**THE WORLD'S FIRST  
PRESERVED RAILWAY**

## Ynysmaengwyn

Around 1815 Joseph Corbett used the proceeds from the sale of his family farm to buy two canal boats. He settled in Delph, in the Black Country, where his wife gave birth to John in 1817. Corbett's boats carried iron from the Leys Ironworks, and it was at the works that John was apprenticed in 1840. He then rejoined the family business and astutely realised that, with the coming of the railways, the canal business would go into decline. So they sold up and John looked around for a new investment. He found it at Stoke Prior, where the ailing British Alkali had found huge deposits of salt. Purchasing the company for £1035 18s 9d, John modernised production and improved his employees' conditions. In 1880 he sold the works for £660,000.

With his vivacious wife Anna, he purchased the Manor of Impney and rebuilt the Manor house, in the French style, at vast expense, but his new wife's allegiance to the Catholic Church led to a rift in their relationship. In 1874 John became Liberal MP for Droitwich, a seat he held for the next 17 years, until his health failed him. Sir Rupert Kettle, a judge and acquaintance of John Corbett, who had had a house built in Tywyn himself, mentioned that Ynysmaengwyn, near Tywyn, was up for sale. The house had a long history traceable from before the 13th C: during the Civil War an heiress of the state married Roger Corbet (only one 't'), a Royalist and descendant of 'le Corbeaus', who came to Britain with William the Conqueror. The family settled at Moreton Corbet in North Shropshire.

During the Second Civil War which started in 1848 Oliver Cromwell and his men quelled a Royalist uprising in South Wales and then marched north to Preston in Lancashire, around the Welsh coast. On reaching Ynysmaengwyn, he was denied accommodation and set fire to the house as a reprisal. It was rebuilt as two separate wings, and in 1758 Ann Corbet started building a mansion to link them. She also built the dovecot, which is virtually all that still remains of this great venture. Some of Ann's successors gradually frittered away their inheritance, and the house was eventually put up for auction and purchased by John Corbett in 1878. Some restoration was undertaken which included the provision of the Lodge. His estranged wife Anna and some of the children then came to live in the house.

John Corbett was a very wealthy man and never refused a request to help the town and contributed to the Market Hall, the School and the Promenade as well as donating the land on which the hospital was eventually built.

The house was used by refugees during the First World War and as a Royal Marine camp during the Second - it was renamed 'Matapan', in honour of a famous marine victory. Mary Corbett gave the house, in a poor state, to Merioneth County Council, who in turn passed it to Tywyn Council in 1948. In very poor condition and with an estimated repair cost of £70,000, it was burnt in an exercise by the local Fire Brigade, and then flattened by the army. The dovecot and a few buildings still remain along with the echo of the beautiful gardens. Look out for the Elephant and Raven motifs on the gateposts as you leave.



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## WALKS

### 2: Rhydyronen & Dysynni Walk



One of a series of six selected walks which start and finish at stations on the Tallyllyn Railway

## Rhydyronen and Dysynni

Following quiet lanes and pretty riverside paths down to the Afon Dysynni, this is an easy walk which offers expansive views towards the sea in the west, and the mountains to the east. Your return route passes Ynysmaengwyn on its way back to the station. It is about 4 miles, so allow 3 hours.

**1** Leave the station, walk to the road and turn LEFT. Pass the entrance to Tynllwyn Caravan Park on the right. When you reach a footpath sign by a stile on the right, turn RIGHT, cross the stile, and the footbridge immediately after, and turn LEFT, to walk beside Nant Rhydyronen. Cross a stile by a gate and continue beside the stream. When you reach a stile tucked away in the corner, cross it and turn RIGHT. Walk with the hedge to your right to eventually reach a stile beside factory buildings. Cross this and continue to another stile. Cross this to reach the road, and then turn LEFT.

**2** After a few yards you reach a main road. Cross this and follow the lane directly ahead. When you reach a kissing gate by a house, go through and follow the lane, crossing a small bridge. Pass a white house on the left and continue along a path, with a wooden fence on your left. Keep walking ahead to reach a stile to the right, ignoring a stile on the left. Cross the stile, cross a bridge and another stile, and turn LEFT to walk beside the river. Go through a gap in a hedge and veer left. Cross a small stream and walk below a chapel on the right. When you reach a ladder stile, cross it and join a road. Turn LEFT, passing public toilets, to reach a road.

**3** Cross the road, turn left to cross the bridge then immediately turn RIGHT through a kissing gate. Walk with the river to your right. Go through a gap in a fence and continue. Cross a stile and continue beside the river to another stile, which you cross. Cross another stile and, when you reach the Dysynni, turn LEFT, to walk with the river to your right. The views north-east towards Bird Rock are splendid.

**4** Walk beside the river, ignoring the first waymark post you reach, and continue towards trees ahead. Go through a kissing gate and continue. Pass a derelict boat house.

**5** A little way beyond this old boathouse, turn LEFT over a foot bridge, just before a gate ahead. Go through a kissing gate and follow the path, passing the fine dovecot of what was once Ynysmaengwyn. Go through gates and follow the road ahead, through the caravan park. Pass through a gate, and then leave the park through metal gates, carefully cross the road and turn LEFT, to walk along the road. Ignore a small stile to your right, and continue, passing the house and farm buildings of Ysguboriau.

**6** When you reach a waymarked kissing gate in the hedge, turn RIGHT, go through and walk with a hedge and fence on your right. Cut across the field corner to head for a ladder stile to the left of Cil-y-Parc. Cross this and continue ahead, soon joining the track which leads to the house. Cross the stile by the gate, join the road and turn RIGHT.

**7** After about 100 yards turn LEFT over a waymarked stile, and walk with a fence to your left. Cross a double stile and walk half-RIGHT to a waymark post. Now walk along a lane created by a slate fence to your left, and the Talyllyn Railway to your right. Cross a ladder stile and turn RIGHT to return to the station.

