

A World of Welsh Copper

Welsh copper has an ancient heritage. Over 4000 years ago the first miners extracted ore from the mountains of central and northern Wales. By the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries Swansea lay at the heart of Wales's historic copper industry. The rich coal reserves surrounding the south Welsh ports, including Llanelli and Neath, ensured they were the most profitable centres in Britain and the world for smelting and refining.



Copper was at the centre of integrated multinational business networks stretching from Anglesey to Australia and Cornwall to Chile. Welsh copper was exported to markets across the continents. Some of it also financed the transatlantic slave trade. Welsh mariners (Cape Horners) circled the globe to ply the world copper trade.

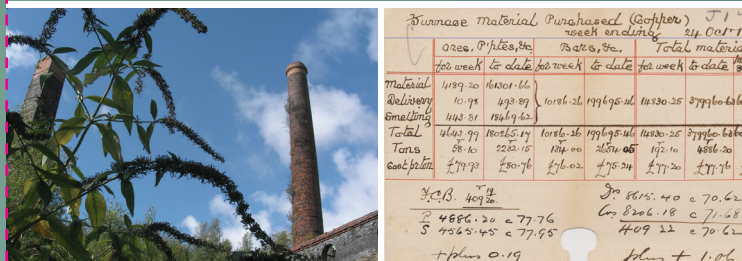
The copper industry has left its mark on Swansea. You can find it in place names such as Vivian, Morris and Grenfell, as well as in the few industrial remains on the banks of the River Tawe. By 1961 the valley was the most derelict industrial landscape in Europe. The Lower Swansea Valley Project transformed this 'moonscape' into a 'greenscape'.

In 2010/11 Swansea University with other partners is undertaking a project to raise awareness of Wales's rich copper heritage. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Global and Local Worlds of Welsh Copper Project aims to leave a legacy of increased access to historical information about the copper industry in Wales.

www.welshcopper.org.uk

Get on the Swansea Copper Trail

- National Waterfront Museum**
Oystermouth Road, SA1 3RD
Welsh copper and brass industries, maritime transport. Research library and photographic archive.
- Swansea Museum**
Victoria Road, SA1 1SN
Historic Swansea collections and research library.
- Swansea Museum Collections Centre**
Landore, SA1 2JT
Industrial collections in the historic Morfa Rolling Shed.
- Glynn Vivian Art Gallery**
Alexandra Road, SA1 5DZ
Fine and decorative art in the age of the copper industry.
- Richard Burton Archives**
Swansea University Library, SA2 8PP
Extensive company records, Lower Swansea Valley Project.
- West Glamorgan Archive Service**
Civic Centre, SA1 3SN
Lower Swansea Valley Project, Vivian and Sons Ltd records.
- Central Library**
Civic Centre, SA1 3SN
Local Studies collection of books, newspapers, maps.
- Copperworks sites**
Lower Swansea Valley
Follow the Tawe River Navigation Heritage Trail.
www.scbt.org.uk/tawetrail



For more history, art and archaeology visit:
www.swanseaheritage.net
www.coflein.gov.uk
www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk

www.welshcopper.org.uk



The Swansea Copper Trail



“ We tend to think that the history of Wales is written in coal dust and iron and steel. But in fact it's really copper that lies at the heart of Wales's development as an industrial nation. ”
 (Prof. Huw Bowen)



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Byd Copr Cymru

Mae gan copr Cymru dreftadaeth hynafol. Dros 4000 o flynyddoedd yn ôl cloddiodd y mwngloddwyr cyntaf fwyn o fynyddoedd canolbarth a gogledd Cymru. Erbyn Chwyldro Diwydiannol y 18fed a'r 19eg ganrif roedd Abertawe yn ganolog i ddiwydiant copr hanesyddol Cymru. Roedd y cyflenwadau glo cyfoethog oedd yn amgylchynu porthladdoedd de Cymru, yn cynnwys Llanelli a Chastell-nedd, yn sicrhau mai dyma'r canolfannau mwyaf proffidiol ym Mhrydain a'r byd ar gyfer mwynoddi a choethi.



Roedd copr yn ganolog i rwydweithiau busnes rhyngwladol integredig yn ymestyn o Sir Fôn i Awstralia ac o Gernyw i Chile. Roedd copr Cymru'n cael ei allforio i farchnadoedd ar draws y cyfandiroedd. Roedd peth ohono hefyd yn ariannu'r fasnach gaethweision ar draws Môr Iwerydd. Roedd morwyr o Gymru (Morwyr yr Horn) yn hwylio o amgylch y byd i wthio masnach copr y byd.

Mae'r diwydiant copr wedi gadael ei ôl ar Abertawe. Fe'i gwelwch mewn enwau llefydd megis Vivian, Morris a Grenfell yn ogystal ag yn yr ychydig olion diwydiannol ar lannau Afon Tawe. Erbyn 1961, y cwm oedd y dirwedd ddiwydiannol fwyaf diffaith yn Ewrop. Bu Prosiect Cwm Tawe Isaf yn gyfrifol am drawsffurfio'r tir anghyfannedd hwn yn dir gwyrdd.

Yn 2010/11 mae Prifysgol Abertawe gyda phartneriaid eraill yn cynnal prosiect i godi ymwybyddiaeth o dreftadaeth gyfoethog copr Cymru, wedi'i gyllido gan y Cyngor Ymchwil Economaidd a Chymdeithasol. Nod Prosiect Bydoedd Lleol a Byd-eang Copr Cymru yw ei gwneud hi'n haws mynd at wybodaeth hanesyddol am y diwydiant copr yng Nghymru.

www.coprcymru.org.uk

Ewch ar Lwybr Copr Abertawe

Amgueddfa Genedlaethol y Glannau

Heol Ystumllwynarth, SA1 3RD
Diwydiannau copr a phres Cymru, cludiant morwrol, Llyfrgell ymchwil ac archif ffotograffau.

Amgueddfa Abertawe

Heol Victoria, SA1 1SN
Casgliadau hanesyddol o Abertawe a llyfrgell ymchwil.

Canolfan Gasgliadau Amgueddfa Abertawe

Glandŵr, SA1 2JT
Casgliadau diwydiannol yn Sied Rolio hanesyddol y Morfa.

Oriel Gelf Glynn Vivian

Heol Alexandra, SA1 5DZ
Celfyddyd gain ac addurnol o gyfnod y diwydiant copr.

Archifau Richard Burton

Llyfrgell Prifysgol Abertawe, SA2 8PP
Cofnodion helaeth gan gwmnïau, Prosiect Cwm Tawe Isaf.

Gwasanaeth Archifau Gorllewin Morgannwg

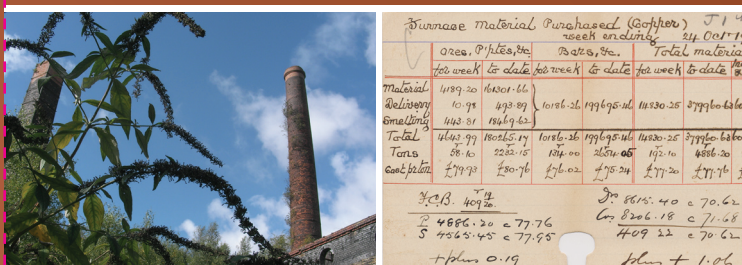
Canolfan Ddinesig, SA1 3SN
Prosiect Cwm Tawe Isaf, cofnodion Vivian a'i Feibion Cyf.

Llyfrgell Ganolog

Canolfan Ddinesig, SA1 3SN
Casgliadau o lyfrau, papurau newydd a mapiau Astudiaethau Lleol.

Safleoedd gweithfeydd copr

Cwm Tawe Isaf
Dilynwch Lwybr Treftadaeth Llywio Afon Tawe.
www.scbt.org.uk/tawetrail



Am ragor o hanes, celf ac archaeoleg ewch i:

www.swanseaheritage.net

www.coflein.gov.uk

www.casgliadywerincymru.co.uk

www.coprcymru.org.uk



Llwybr Copr Abertawe



“ Tueddwn i feddwl fod hanes Cymru wedi'i ysgrifennu mewn llwch glo a haearn a dur. Ond mewn gwirionedd copr sy'n ganolog i ddatblygiad Cymru fel gwlad ddiwydiannol. ”
(Yr Athro Huw Bowen)



www.coprcymru.org.uk