Tirwedd y Llechfaen

Landscape of Slate

Mae diwydiant llechi Cymru yn enwog am ansawdd ei gynhyrchion, yn enwedig ei lechi to a'i slabiau. Pan oedd y diwydiant yn ei anterth, yn ystod rhan olaf y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, câi llechi eu hallforio i farchnadoedd ym mhedwar ban byd. Cafodd effaith fawr ar olwg llawer o 'drefi gwaith' gwledydd Prydain, gan ddarparu'r defnyddiau toi ar gyfer ardaloedd melinau Swydd Gaerhirfryn a Swydd Efrog, pentrefi glofaol cymoedd de Cymru, tai ar draws Llundain, a llawer o drefweddau eraill. Mae ymdriniaeth Falcon â'r diwydiant wedi canolbwyntio ar Flaenau Ffestiniog, y fwyaf o'r trefi llechi o ran maint.

The Welsh slate industry is renowned for the quality of its products, especially roofing slates and slabs. In its heyday during the late nineteenth century slates were exported to markets all over the world. The industry affected the visual character of numerous British 'worktowns', providing the roofing material for mill settlements in Lancashire and Yorkshire, mining villages in the south Wales valleys, housing across London and many other townscapes. Falcon's exploration of the industry has focused on Blaenau Ffestiniog, the largest of the slate towns.

De: **Cwt drwm, Chwarel Rhiw-bach, 1981**
Mae'r braslun hwn, dyddiedig 23 Mawrth 1981, yn dangos y cwt drwm ar ben yr ail inclein a fyddai'n mynd â thramiau llechi i Chwarel Rhiw-bach, Blaenau Ffestiniog ac oddi yno. Dyma enghraifft o ddefnyddio gwastraff llechi i adeiladu adeiladweithiau cadarn.

Right: **Drum house to Rhiw-bach Quarry, 1981**
This site sketch, dated 23 March 1981, shows the drum house at the top of the second incline taking slate trams to and from Rhiw-bach quarry, Blaenau Ffestiniog. It is an example of the use of slate waste to build sturdy structures.

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Chwith: **Gweddillion cwt weindio Bonc Goedai, Chwarel yr Oakeley, 1998**
Erbyn i'r lluniad hwn gael ei wneud, roedd un ochr i'r cwt drwm yn Chwarel yr Oakeley, Blaenau Ffestiniog wedi'i dymchwel i wneud lle i ffordd newydd, ac roedd y ffrâm a gynhaliai'r drwm wedi'i llifio drwodd, gan adael marciau crwn ar y coed lle buasai'r drwm yn cylchdroi.

Left: **Remains of Bonc Goedai winding house, Oakeley Quarry, 1998**
By the time this drawing was made, one side of the drum house at Oakeley Quarry, Blaenau Ffestiniog, had been demolished to make way for a new road, and the frame that supported the drum had been sawn through, leaving circular marks on the jutting timbers where the drum had revolved.

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Siambrau yn y golwg: Chwarel Foty a Bowydd, 1977
Yn Chwarel Foty a Bowydd ger Blaenau Ffestiniog, câi'r llechfaen ei gloddio mewn siambrau mawr a ddilynai'r haenau o lechfaen a oedd ar oledd serth. Câi colofnau o graig eu gadael i gynnal y to. Mae gwaith mwy diweddar wedi cuddio'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt, ond yma mae'r to wedi'i dynnu i ffwrdd i ddatgelu'r twnelau a siambrau tanddaearol.

Exposed chambers: Foty and Bowydd Quarry, 1977
At Foty and Bowydd Quarry near Blaenau Ffestiniog, slate was mined in large underground chambers following the steeply dipping slate beds, leaving pillars of rock to hold up the roof. These chambers have been almost totally obscured by modern working, but here the top has been taken off revealing the subterranean tunnels and chambers.

Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru
Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru
Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1NJ
Ffôn/ Telephone: 01970 621200

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