

16 North West Anglesey: short Introduction



The main line railway came too late to be of use to the copper industry, whose business was always conducted by sea. It was not until 1867 that the Anglesey Central Railway was opened from Holland Arms, running via Llangefni and Llanerchymedd to Amlwch.....

.....The beautiful inaccessible and rugged coastline of the North West of Anglesey, from Amlwch round to Holy Island,

holds some surprises pleasant and otherwise for the unsuspecting visitor.....at such places as Porth Wen, with derelict remains of the silica brickworks in a small and very "Cornish" cove.....a water tube boiler range installed circa 1900 stands well preserved adjacent to a now-empty engine house.....three circular brick-drying kilns interconnected by a large network of under floor flues leading to a tall chimneystack. On the quay there is a 16 cwt. hand winch, a Lancashire boiler shell and the remains of a large two-cylinder steam crane for loading vessels.....

.....A short walk along a pleasant and dramatic stretch of coast now administered by the National Trust brings us to another isolated works at Porth Llanlleiana.....

.....A detour along a few miles of typical Anglesey byroad is necessary to reach the village of Llanddeusant, which remarkably contains not only the last working watermill on the island, but also the only one of its windmills to retain much of its character; both are open to the public in the summer months.....The windmill tower is 30 ft 6 in high and has a diameter of 9 ft 6 in at the base; the span of the sails was 69 ft 6 in. On the top of the tower a timber curb carried an iron-gear rack upon which the cap was rotated to turn the sails into the wind, by means of an 8 ft diameter chain wheel

.....a mile or so down the road, the watermill is still at work, not merely as another tourist attraction, but for the everyday purpose for which it was intended, under the supervision of Anglesey's last full-time miller.....the waterwheel was enlarged from 12 ft to 14 ft in diameter before 1850, the extension cast flanges being tailor-made at a Caernarfon foundry and still in situ..... here it is possible to see all the processes being carried out, recreating the true atmosphere of the country mill.....

.....The last village along the north west coast before the main Holyhead road is rejoined is Llanfachraeth, a former woollen manufacturing and brewing community.....down a narrow lane towards the sea are situated the buildings of the Mona Brewery including a sizeable kiln chimneystack.....such small local breweries were established to meet the

needs of the large immigrant population resulting from rapid industrialization; in the case of Anglesey primarily due to the copper mines.....by the river bridge at Erw Goch (317822) are the remains of one of the woollen factories, containing an 11 ft diameter cast iron waterwheel with wooden spokes.....nearby Melin Llywenan (344822) was still in operation as the Anglesey Tweed Mill until 1952....
.....The last relic of the old Anglesey Turnpike, now B5109, is a milestone at (348801).....



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