



## 25 The Lleyn peninsula – north coast: Short Introduction



....at and beyond the village of Clynnog is an area once important for granite quarrying; the principal workings were around the summit of Yr Eifl mountain - prominent directly ahead....the stone quay at Trevor (375474) was constructed in 1878 together with the railway and incline connecting it to the quarries; horses were used to pull the wagons at first, but they were soon replaced by locomotives.....vast stone crushing mills were installed to deal with the increasing

requirement for granite chippings for road use....the offices and workshops of the company were at the foot of the main railway incline at West End, where also are to be found the stables for the horses, and a smithy..... just below the incline stands the fine manager's house, Plas-yr-Eifl.....

....On the far side of the mountain another self-contained complex of granite workings in Nant Gwytheryn can be visited from the car park at the end of a lane leading from Llithfaen village. Even today the only means of access is on foot, via the steep and twisting footpath down the cliffs into a small valley. At the bottom is situated the former "ghost village" of Porthynant, now renovated as an outdoor education centre. Until abandonment the inhabitants relied almost entirely on the sea for communication with the outside world.....the quarrymen's houses, spacious and fairly well appointed examples of their type, are grouped in terraces around the village green. At one end is the schoolroom and a chapel "Seilo 1878". In the opposite corner, separated by its own walled garden, is the manager's house, set apart from the others and of course much grander. Below the village is a wooden jetty on the seashore, now somewhat collapsed.....on the hillsides all around there are three granite workings.....with some 3 ft gauge tramway track wagons and other machinery surviving.....

.....Morfa Nefyn, the next settlement along the coast is a fishing village turned pleasant tourist retreat, but this would have been very different had William Maddocks' plan to create a packet port in Porthdinllaen Bay succeeded in preference to Holyhead in 1844.... the Ty Coch Inn was built in anticipation of the Irish trade that never materialized. The long straight section of the Pwllheli Nefyn highway is also a present-day reminder that the mails were once intended to come this way.....

..... At Ederyn the old corn mill still stands by the river bridge, with a pottery next door. Other corn mills are to be found at Mellteryn, now an antique shop but retaining its 10 ft cast iron waterwheel, and Aberdaron.....a small fishing village and also the traditional embarkation point for the ferry across to Bardsey Island. This is a place of pilgrimage and solitude situated just beyond the end of the Lleyn peninsula and no less than 55 miles down the coast from Bangor. The farmhouses on the island - two semi-detached pairs with walled enclosures for shelter - were modelled by Lord Newborough for his tenants in 1870-5.

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