



The Quarry at Carreg yr Imbill SH 28623428

Carreg yr Imbill / Gimlet Rock / (SH 38633430) was a large rock in the sea, and an island before sand dunes accumulated to the west and east of it to form Pwllheli Beach and Abererch Beach.

In 1875 work started on extracting granite from it and soon setts were being exported to Canada and the United States, on ships that imported timber to Pwllheli. There was a crane on the quay for loading ships, and very soon up to 150 workers were employed there. Many of them were people who came from other places and had quarry working skills.

For years, the workings had periods of activity and inactivity. In the 1880s there was a strike because the owners wanted to reduce the wages. Many of the workers emigrated to Ireland and Scotland.

The most successful period was in the years before the First World War, when over 170 were employed there.

During the Religious Revival in 1904-05 the quarry was closed for four hours so the workers could hold a prayer meeting.

At the beginning, the setts were taken away on ships but in the 1920s/1930s lorries were used to carry smaller stone from the quarry.

In 1939 the lease came to an end and the rock had been reduced so much in size by then that the lease was not renewed.

These days, the rock is popular with anglers and very suitable for learning to climb on. One stormy inlet facing the sea is called Crochan Berw (cauldron + boiling).



Quarries and Mines in Llŷn

The quarries on Mynydd Tir Cwmwd, Llanbedrog opened when there was a great demand for setts to pave the streets of the cities of England, and that brought work for the men of Llanbedrog. The granite came from the igneous rocks of Llŷn and the biggest quarries were on the Eifl mountains and Mynydd Nefyn. The Trwyn Dwmi Workings were opened at Porth y Pistyll, Uwchmynydd, and there were quarries at Gimlet Rock/Carreg yr Imbyll in Pwllheli. But there's more than just granite in Llŷn.

According to tradition, the Romans were mining for lead at Penrhyn Du in Llanengan parish, and we have definite evidence of it happening in the mid C17th. Copper was mined at Pant Gwyn for a short time, and lead at Penrhyn Du, and over towards the village of Llanengan. In the C19th there were 240 miners employed, the majority from Cornwall.

The first industrial activity we have a record of is from five or six thousand years ago in the Neolithic period, with the Stone Axe Factory at Mynydd y Rhiw.

Early in the C19th manganese was discovered. It was mined at Nant y Gadwen, Rhiw and exported from Porth Ysgo and mined at Benallt, near Clip y Gylfinir and carried on an aerial ropeway for export from Porth Neigwl. There was great demand for manganese during the two World Wars but the workings closed in 1945.

Jasper was extracted at Mynydd Carreg near Porthorion and at Llanllawen, Uwchmynydd.

There are the remains of a jetty on Aberdaron beach, at Porth Simdde. It was built in the C19th for exporting barites (heavy crystal) ore from the workings at Gwaith Pompren in the early C20th. The pier is said to have never been used.

The most unexpected mining was in the Rhoshirwaun and Llangwnnadl areas, when coal mining was attempted in the late C19th.



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