

# The Slate Industry Today

Today, Welsh slate from Penrhyn quarry is still in huge demand. It is used in the construction industry for roofing slate, slate cladding and paving, for sills, landscaping and for numerous architectural features such as hearths and fire surrounds. It is also used as dinnerware designed by the Michelin chef Michael Cains. Welsh slate proudly claims

that its product is the strongest and most durable slate known to man. Welsh slate from North Wales and Penrhyn quarry was used in the façade of the millennium centre in Cardiff. The Penrhyn quarry is now owned by Welsh Slate Ltd, who also own slate mines in Blaenau Ffestiniog. The natural quality and durability of Penrhyn slate are still unsurpassed. While changes in the industry mean that quarrymen no longer face the dangers of the past and require the long apprenticeship required to learn their craft, it is still whispered that ‘you must be a Welshman to understand the stone, for the rock does not understand English’, honestly!!

The main pit at Penrhyn quarry today



Modern equipment at use in the quarry today

## THE SLATE TRAIL

Follow 'The Slate Trail' along Lôn Las Ogwen, where you can find a series of information boards recounting the unique story of Ogwen slate, Penrhyn Quarry and the people involved in its production.