

Port Penrhyn

Slate from the Penrhyn quarry was shipped all over the world, providing roofing slate for the vast number of new houses being built in the 19th century. From as early as the 1790s, over a dozen ship loads a week of slate left the port, mostly bound for Liverpool. The slate was originally carried from the quarry by pack-horses, and later by carts.



*Caption here for
this photo*

In 1801, Penrhyn railway opened, connecting the quarry to the port, a distance of 6 miles. Horse power drove the carriages back and forth. Inclines were used to cope with the steep gradient, falling some 500ft from start to finish. Between 1876 and 1962 the slate was transported to Port Penrhyn using steam locomotives.

Writing slate factory, Port Penrhyn

The Penrhyn Estate built a number of buildings at Port Penrhyn. They include the classical villa, Lime Grove, reputedly built by Samuel Wyatt for the agent to the estate, and the circular communal lavatory. One innovation that increased the demand for slate was its use in schools as a blackboard on which children could write in chalk. The Penrhyn Estate had a virtual monopoly on producing writing slate. The writing slate factory was located on the quayside.

**Slate schooners at Port Penrhyn
in it's heyday, circa 1913**



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.