

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape



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Blaenavon is a cultural landscape demonstrating how South Wales was the world's major producer of iron and coal in the 19th century. The still visible coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces and social infrastructure of the communities, provides a comprehensive picture of the crucial elements of the industrialisation process.

What makes this UNESCO Designation special?

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is the exceptional testimony to the dynamic forces that drove the Industrial Revolution that is told through the area's heritage assets.

Major sites such as Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit, together with the wider landscape with its relicts of mineral exploitation, manufacturing, transport and settlements, tell the story of the iron and coal industry that was pre-eminent in south Wales in the 19th century.

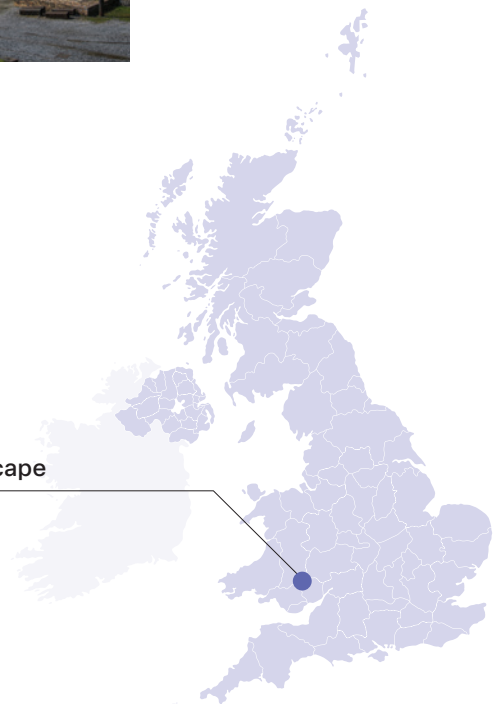
The ironworks, which dates back to 1789, includes 18th and 19th century furnaces, casting houses, calcining kilns, workers cottages and the iconic water balance that dates back to 1839. Meanwhile, Big Pit, the last deep mine in the area, presents visitors with a unique tour through the underground workings, as well as allowing them to explore the surface buildings.

At the same time, the town and the reminders of lost communities across the hillsides, tell the story of the people who drove the industrial revolution. The investors, who risked their money in starting the iron industry in the area, the workers who brought skills as well as physical labour to develop the industries, and those who took those lessons with them as they left in search of new challenges, establishing industry across the world.



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County: **Torfaen**



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