



# Walking in the footsteps of a legend... Aneurin Bevan

Nye Bevan loved to walk across the moors above Trefil, a limestone quarrying community on the northern edge of his constituency and the highest village in Wales. You can follow in the footsteps of this visionary and principled man, through a landscape packed with myth and legend, on this walk to his favourite view. Here are some of the things to look out for along the way.





**Start: 1 Tafarn Tŷ Uchaf, Trefil**

(Grid Reference: 119129)

Originally The Quarrymen's Arms, this was one of Nye's favoured watering holes. Check they are open (01495 717690) so you can enjoy a meal, or a pint at the bar where Nye's portrait hangs. You might want to try 'Bevan's Bitter' made locally by Rhymney Brewery.

**2 Trefil Railroad** was a very early railway system carrying limestone south to the nearby ironworks. 'Trefil' means land in a triangle or a river fork.

**3 Chartist Cave** Legend has it this mysterious cave is where the Chartists met in secret and plotted the Chartist Uprising of 1839, in their struggle to establish our modern democracy. Intrigue surround three skeletons found deep in the cave. Were they the remains of government spies and informers or Chartists killed in the Newport Rising?

**4 Garn Fawr Bronze Age Cairn** High status people were buried here some 4000 years ago in a stone chest and with a drinking cup, filled with a mixture of mead and hemp, to send them on their way!

**5 Trefil Limestone Quarry** Limestone was an essential ingredient in iron making and much in demand by the nearby furnaces of Tredegar and Ebbw Vale. Closed nearly a century ago, this is an eerie place which is now Wales' largest scheduled ancient monument.

**6 Bryn Oer Tramroad** Here the walk follows an early 19th century horse drawn railway which took stone from the Trefil quarries to the canal at Talybont-on-Usk. Bryn Oer means 'cold hill' in Welsh.

**7 Dyffryn Crawnon** Nye's ashes, and those of his wife Jenny, were scattered at their request here, where he had roamed with his childhood friends, overlooking 'the valley of the Garlic river'.

**8 Limekilns** Limestone was burnt here to make quicklime for building and agriculture.

**9 Duke's Table** Legend has it this circular green mound in a stone ring was used as a picnic table by grouse shooting parties, entertained by the Duke of Beaufort who owned this land.

**10 Hafod Enclosure** 'Hafod' means summer in Welsh and this was an upland summer settlement where sheep were brought to graze the summer pastures. The larger of the stone circles was for enclosing the sheep, as they were regularly milked. The smaller one was the shepherd's hut.

