



White Rock Trail.

Further Walks - If you enjoyed this walk, check out the other walks in this series: Hated Mofa Copperworks Industrial Heritage Trail,

www.swansea.gov.uk/morristonpark

Woodfield Street.

Facilities - A range of shops and eating places can be found on

Including service no 4, 36, X6 (from the Kingsway)

Bus - Regular bus services run between Swansea City centre and

Cycle - Morriston is located on national cycle route number 43.

www.swansea.gov.uk/suburbanparks

Nearest car park is on Treharne Road SA6 7AA

signposts.

There is an entrance on Clasmont Road.

Postcode - SA6 6AF

Continue to the right onto Vicarage Road. The park is straight ahead.

Car - From M4, J46 take Morriston exit (A48/Clasmont Road).

How to Get There

LOWER SWANSEA VALLEY CWM TAWE ISAF

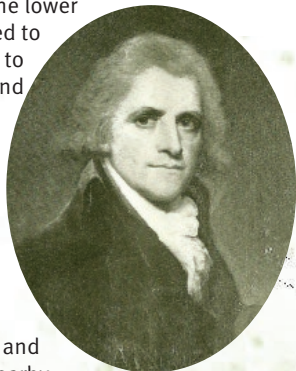
Morriston Park and Ffynnon Deml Industrial Heritage Trail



A circular walk 1.4 miles/ 3,200 steps/106 kcal
30 mins - 1 hour

Morriston Park and Ffynnon Deml Industrial Heritage Trail

In the first half of the 18th Century, pioneering Swansea industrialist Robert Morris established himself as Britain's preeminent copper and coal magnate. The Morris Enterprise was expanded by his son John through a series of prudent land acquisitions, forming an extensive estate on the western slopes of the lower Swansea Valley. In 1775, John Morris decided to build a mansion called Clasmont adjacent to one of the estate farms at Pengwern. The land surrounding the house became known as Clasmont Park.



Fifteen years after building Clasmont, Morris created the settlement of Morriston to house his workers. John Morris became 1st Baronet of Clasmont in 1806 and remained there until his death in 1819. The house, however, was dismantled shortly after due to fumes from the smelting works and destabilisation caused by mining activity nearby.

Small parcels of Clasmont were subsequently sold off, until 1911 when Swansea Corporation purchased a much-reduced Clasmont to locate a new water storage facility and to create a municipal park. Renamed Morriston Park, it opened to the public in 1912.

1. Park Lodge Road entrance

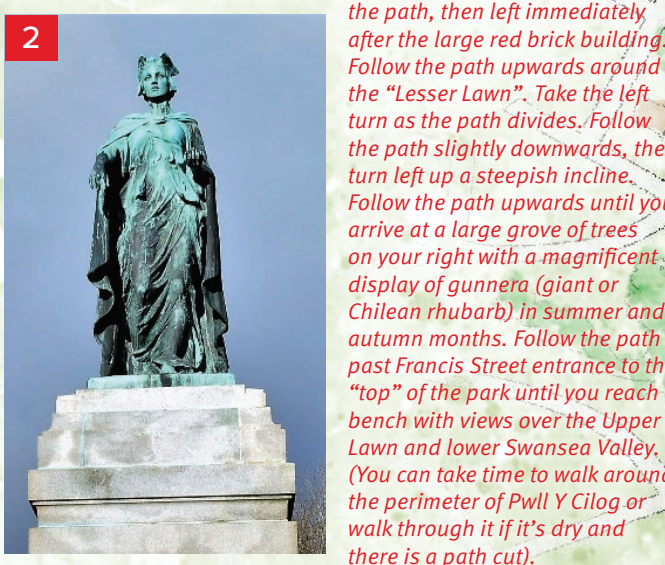
The Morriston Park Industrial Heritage Trail starts here and takes a circular route around the park and into Ffynnon Deml. It will take between 45 minutes and one hour, involves moderate inclines and walking over some uneven grass paths. Less confident walkers may opt to remain within the park and miss out points 4 to 7, or 3 to 7 to avoid the steepest inclines.

Start walk and follow path left to the War Memorial.

2. Morriston War Memorial (Grade II listed)

Officially opened in November 1912. A bronze statue of Eirene: Goddess of peace and the season of Spring with winged head-dress, standing on a high classically granite plinth. There are inscriptions to front and rear on bronze panels in Welsh and English, with names of soldiers lost during the Great War on either side. Many of those listed had been employed at one of several large works that continued the industrial legacy of the lower Swansea Valley, including the Dyffryn Steel and Tinplate Works, the Upper Fforest & Worcester Steel and Tinplate Works, and the Swansea Vale Spelter Company.

Now follow the left-hand path upwards, past the tree-sculpture monkeys on your left, to join the main path. After a few yards, turn left along the slightly narrower path. Continue past the bowling green on your right and follow the path as it curves slightly upwards to the right. Pass the play area on your right and turn right at the top of



the path, then left immediately after the large red brick building. Follow the path upwards around the "Lesser Lawn". Take the left turn as the path divides. Follow the path slightly downwards, then turn left up a steepish incline. Follow the path upwards until you arrive at a large grove of trees on your right with a magnificent display of gunnera (giant or Chilean rhubarb) in summer and autumn months. Follow the path past Francis Street entrance to the "top" of the park until you reach a bench with views over the Upper Lawn and lower Swansea Valley. (You can take time to walk around the perimeter of Pwll Y Cilog or walk through it if it's dry and there is a path cut).

3. Pwll y Cilog

A small grove with an impressive stand of giant rhubarb. This is the Site of Pwll y Cilog, a former mine that is either unmarked on OS maps or recorded simply as "shaft". One of several along a line from Llangyfelach to Wychtree. The mines were constantly waterlogged. Around 1750, the ever-resourceful Robert Morris, converted a "drainage level" that was constructed between the shafts to remove water, into a rudimentary canal, possibly the world's earliest for transporting coal underground. It was shipped in three feet wide, twenty feet long boats holding four tonnes of coal. They were propelled by men or boys, lying on their backs on top of the coal and pushing or "walking" along the ceiling of the tunnel. The canal extended 1,100 yards to the valley floor at Wychtree, from where the coal was distributed via Morris's overland canal to his growing network of copperworks.

(You may opt to miss the next sections if it is wet or you prefer a shorter walk by proceeding directly to the reservoir by following a descending path around the "Upper Lawn" where you then turn right and follow the line of green municipal fencing. Now follow directions to 8. Morriston Park Waterworks).

Facing the bench at the top of the park, walk left towards where the path bends left and descends and look for a grass path on your right through a kissing gate in the park perimeter. Now exit into Ffynnon Deml onto the tarmac path and immediately take the right grass path upwards passing two bomb craters on your left.



4. Bomb craters

Two craters, each with a diameter of approximately 23 feet and depth of 3.3 feet. Fragments of shell casing, similar to pieces excavated further west at Penllergare Valley Woods bearing the Krupp AG factory stamp, have been recovered from the field. Possibly dating to June 1940, eight months before the Swansea "Three Nights' Blitz", when a lone German plane dropped two high explosive bombs over Morriston. The lower Swansea Valley was a strategic target during the Second World War because it remained a nationally important centre of manufacturing and coal production. Alternatively, the craters may date to one of the last air-raids on Swansea in 1943. A resident of Vicarage Road at the time reported: "The raid occurred at about six am ... enemy bombers flew low over our house, releasing salvoes of high explosives. Fortunately, it was the park opposite which took the impact. Beyond the park was sited an American army camp, which undoubtedly had been the objective."

Immediately after the craters, turn right along the grass paths towards the old white house (it might be relatively obscured by trees in summer).



5. Pengwern Farm

Pengwern Farm was remodelled in the 18th century as a home farm to provide food for Clasmont mansion. It was described as a "substantial quadrangle of buildings (including a coach house). Although the frontage of the house exhibits later embellishments, the rear retains the original form, as does the adjoining, possibly older farm building. The pillar gates are formed of copper slag blocks which are amongst the earliest examples of this material in use, along with those incorporated into the castellations of Morris Castle. To the rear of the building is a cobbled yard and coach house that are possibly original, however, the home is in private ownership and not accessible to the public.

With Pengwern in front of you, head downwards, to the right, along the long sloping grass path. You should be able to see Birchgrove and Mynydd Drumau in the distance. This whole area is Pengwern and to your left (just below the old farmhouse) is where Clasmont Mansion once stood.

6. Clasmont House

This is the location of Sir John Morris's Palladian-style mansion built around 1775. It was a three-storeyed, symmetrically fenestrated house with low flanking pavilions linked by screen walls. Externally decorated with white stucco, the house would have been a highly visible and striking feature within the 18th Century landscape. It was designed by Leicester architect John Johnson, who also designed Gnoll House in Neath. The project manager was William Jernegan who became Swansea's leading Regency architect. The grounds were landscaped to achieve the rolling grassland aesthetic that dominated the gardens of great houses of the period. When grass is low, flat terraces can still be observed radiating towards the park.



7. Ffynnon Deml (Temple Spring)

In contrast to the designed landscape of Morriston Park, this is a large area of open grassland with a boggy area that provides a great habitat for amphibians like frogs, toads and newts. The area is also known locally as the Lead Field, possibly due to the high number of lead fragments that have been found, which may indicate previous lead working activity in the area.

As you follow the grass path downwards, the park will be on your right, until you come to a track crossing at a right angle in front of you. Turn right and follow the path through another "kissing gate" to re-enter the park. Now follow the tarmac path past the "little woods" on your left and then alongside the green municipal fencing with laurel hedge. Follow the hedge line, bearing left, until you reach the reservoir entrance. It can be seen along a short path through the municipal fence.



8. Morriston Park Waterworks

In 1910 Swansea Corporation purchased part of the Clasmont Estate to build a facility for storing water pumped from its newly constructed reservoir at Crai in the Brecon Beacons. The two water tanks are grassed over and inaccessible behind railings, however the cast iron entrance portal can be seen with a date stone incorporated into the surrounding brickwork. The facility continues not only to supply water to north Swansea, but also another water storage tank located adjacent to Cwmdonkin Park from where it is distributed to the affluent areas of western Swansea.

Carry on along the path and stop to look over the Great Lawn.

9. The Borrowed Landscape

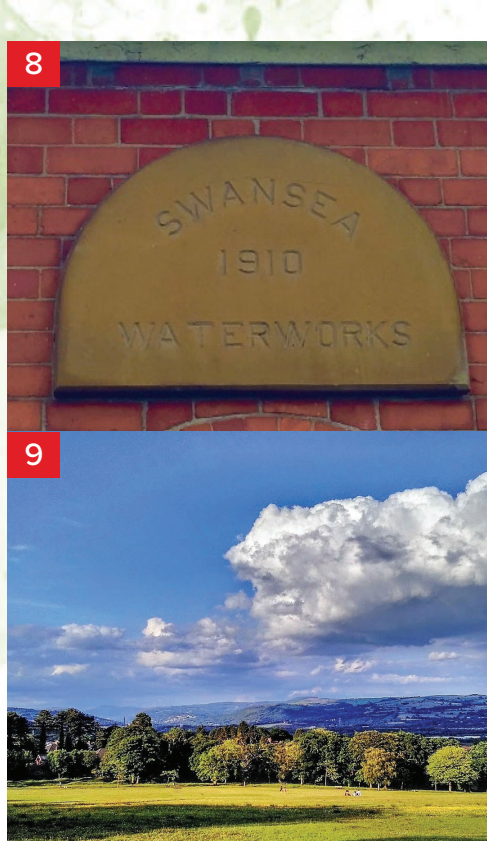
Looking over the Great Lawn towards Mynydd Drumau on the opposite bank of the valley. This vista was designed to maintain a rural idyll from the grounds of the house by employing the woodland of Morris Plantation to obscure much of the industrialisation on the valley floor. The same effect can be seen today, where much of Morriston is still hidden from view by the trees, and the hills beyond appear part of a continuous landscape. Looking up the valley, Fan Gyhyrch is the mountain that can be seen looming in the distance on a clear day. Rainfall from the hill drains into the catchment of the Afon Crai that feeds the reservoir from where water is pumped to the park.

Circumnavigate the Lawn, or if it is dry (it can be a bit soggy in parts after rainfall) walk across it or in summer take one of the grass paths through the wild flower meadow to the woods below.



10. The Great Lawn

A remnant of the flattened landscape created in the 18th Century around Clasmont Mansion. The Lawn has never been farmed nor the soil improved. Today the upper section is left as wildflower meadow whilst the bottom section is mown to allow leisure activities and picnicking.



Make your way through or around the woods to return to the entrance where the walk began.

11. Morris Plantation

A fragment of ancient woodland. The trees were used to great effect to partially screen the industrialised valley floor from the Morris Mansion. It is said that John Morris maintained the "wilderness" not only as a landscaping feature, but also for the purposes of pigeon shooting.



[illegible]

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Dyma leoliad plasty arddull Baladaidd Syr John Morris 'a adeiladwyd tua 1775. Roedd yn dy trillau 'a ffenestrïad cymesur gyda phafiliynau isel o'i ddeutu, wedi'u cysylltu â waliau sgrîn. Byddai'r tŷ a addurnwyd yn allanol â stwco gwyn wedi bod yn hynod weladwy ac yn nodwed drawiadol yn y diwrnod yn y 18fed ganrif. Fe'i dyluniwyd gan John Johnson, pensaer o Gaerlŷr a ddyluniodd Tŷ'r Gnoill yng Nghastell-nedd hefyd. Rheolwy'r prosiect oedd William Jernegan a daeth yn bŵr bensaer yn Abertawe yn nghyfnod y Rhagylwïaeth. Tirluniowyd y tiroedd i greu'r esthetig glaswelltir tonnog a oedd yn flaenllaw yng ngerddi tai mawr y cyfnod. Pan fydd y gwair yn isel, gellir gweld terasau gwastad o hyd yn ymestyn tua'r parc.

A map of the study area showing the location of the study site (E6) relative to the road network and the study area boundary. The map includes a road network, a study area boundary (indicated by a red dotted line), and a study site (E6) marked with a red arrow. The map also shows the location of the study area relative to the road network and the study area boundary.

Ewch o amgylch y lawnt neu os yw'n sych (gall fod braidd yn wlyb mewn rhannau ar ôl iddi frwr glaw) cerddwch ar ei draws neu yn yr haf dilynwch un o'r llwybrau gwair drwy'r ddôl blodau gwyllt i'r coed islaw.