



Access Statement

Kidwelly Industrial Museum

This document has been prepared to allow visitors to the Museum the opportunity to plan their visit to suit their personal needs.

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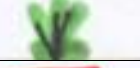

Introduction

Kidwelly Industrial Museum is based in the tinsplate works established on the banks of the Gwendraeth Fach in 1737. Having been acquired by Llanelli Borough Council, the site was leased in 1982 to the Kidwelly Heritage Centre and Tinsplate Museum Trust, for a period of 125 years. The Trust works closely with Carmarthenshire County Council, who provides services such as Museum mentoring, financial assistance, attendant staff and professional expertise. The museum, which incorporates three scheduled monuments and a number of listed buildings, now interprets not only the tinsplate industry but also coal mining and other industries. The museum opens for a short season during the year, between May and September, can be opened by appointment with the trust. The trust have worked hard to update the exhibitions and are working towards projects to make some of the machinery move (turning the wheels in the hot and cold rolls), on a n environmental project to replace the undershot water wheel (this will take a lot of preparation with a number of partners) and the refurbishment and conservation of the Morlais Mining Museum and the four trains on the site.

The following document has been prepared to allow visitors to the Museum the opportunity to plan their visit to suit their personal needs.

Should you require any further information or have any comments please contact the Kidwelly Industrial Museum Trust on info@kidwellyindustrialmuseum.co.uk, more contact details are below.

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Pre-visit

The Kidwelly Industrial Museum is set in the 13 acres of the original tinsplate works of Kidwelly. The Museum interprets and displays information and artefacts from the tinsplate works, the Morlais mine and other local industries. The Museum is unique in that it is the second oldest tinsplate works in Wales and the only surviving tinsplate works, in Britain, with the majority of its machinery and buildings in situ.

Individuals can access information about the Museum before their visit in a number of ways including:

- Leaflet – this offers basic information about the Museum, its opening times and directions to the site in both Welsh and English, this leaflet is available in Local Tourist information Centres and at local businesses.
- Telephone – the museum has a direct phone number 01554 891078, this is answered by the attendant on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 10.00am and 5.00pm and at all other time messages are recorded by and answer phone. More information about the museum can also be acquired by phoning the Carmarthen County Museum on 01267 228696.
- Website – The Museum website can be found at <http://www.kidwellyindustrialmuseum.co.uk/>
- Email – the email address for the Museum is info@kidwellyindustrialmuseum.co.uk
- Address – the Address for written correspondence is:

Kidwelly Industrial Museum
Broadford Lane
Kidwelly
Carmarthenshire
SA17 4 LW

- A copy of this Access Statement will be made available on the Museum website and by request at the Museum and at Carmarthen County Museum

Museum opening times are as follows:

Tuesday	10.00 am – 5.00pm
Thursday	10.00 am – 5.00pm
Saturday	10.00 am – 5.00pm

Easter week, Spring Bank Holiday, May Bank Holiday and every week from the end of May through to the End of September

Access to the site at any other times can be negotiated with the Museum Trust via the contact details listed above.

Access around the site is directed by bilingual way markers and interpretation panels

Directions to the Kidwelly Industrial Museum:

By Car:

From Carmarthen

- The Museum is 9½ miles from the Town of Carmarthen
- From the large roundabout on the outskirts of Carmarthen, the roads from Haverfordwest and west Wales (A40), from Llandeilo (A40) and from Cross hands, Swansea and East Wales (A48 leading to the M4) all meet this roundabout.
- At this roundabout take the A484 towards Kidwelly, Burry Port and Llanelli,
- Follow this road for about 7½ miles you will go through two roundabouts at the 3rd roundabout on the outskirts of Kidwelly take the 2 exit and follow the A484 for ½ a mile and take the 1st left on to Meinciau Road, this road is signposted to Mynyddygarreg and there is a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Follow the Meinciau Road for approx. 4 minutes and turn left onto Llangadog Road, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Drive approx. 500ft along this road and then turn left onto Broadford Lane, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- The gates into the museum are about 150ft from this junction on the right.

From Llanelli

- The Museum is 8½ miles from the town of Llanelli
- These directions are started from the Gelli Onn , Near to St Thomas Church in the Centre of Llanelli
- From Gelli Onn turn right on to hall street, on to the A484 and head west for about 500ft
- Then turn left on to New Road/ B4309 follow this road for about ½ a mile and you will reach a small roundabout
- Take the 1st exit on this roundabout onto Stradey Road/ B4308
- Follow this road for about 6½ miles through Penymynydd, Trimsaran, go through the roundabout in Trimsaran heading towards Kidwelly
- At the junction with the A484 turn right and follow the bypass for about 4 minutes
- Turn right on to Meinciau Road this road is signposted to Mynyddygarreg and there is a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Follow the Meinciau Road for approx. 4 minutes and turn left onto Llangadog Road, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum

- Drive approx. 500ft along this road and then turn left onto Broadford Lane, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- The gates into the museum are about 150ft from this junction on the right.

By Bus:

- The nearest town to the Kidwelly Industrial Museum is Kidwelly
- There are 2 buses that stop in Kidwelly from both Llanelli and Carmarthen
- In Carmarthen – from Blue Street, buses 198 and X12 head to Kidwelly and on to Llanelli
- In Llanelli – From Stepney Place, buses 198 and X12 head to both Kidwelly and on to Carmarthen
- It is suggested that one alights at the square in Kidwelly, the square is situated in front of a large church called St Mary's, from here one can get a bus the B5 to Mynyddygarreg, this bus will stop at the junction to Llangadog Road by request.
- The B5 bus runs a number of services during the day, however one can book the B5 as it is a 'dial – a- ride', to pre-book this bus or for more information about this service phone 0845 634 0661, 24 hours before your visit.
- Alternatively one can walk from the square, the Museum is just over a mile walk

Walking to the Museum from the square:

- At the square head up Causeway Street for about 150ft and turn left on to Lady Street
- Walk down Lady Street until you reach the small roundabout; here stay left and walk down Priory Street,
- Walk down Priory Street for about ½ mile until you reach a junction with the bypass, this is the A484, opposite this junction is a junction for Meinciau Road this road is signposted to Mynyddygarreg and there is a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Follow the Meinciau Road for approx. 10 minutes and turn left onto Llangadog Road, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Walk approx. 500ft along this road and then turn left onto Broadford Lane, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- The gates into the museum are about 150ft from this junction on the right

By Train:

- There are a number of trains from Swansea and East Wales and Carmarthen and West Wales that stop at the Kidwelly train station, for more information about the trains to Kidwelly contact; National Railway enquiries on www.nationalrail.co.uk or by telephoning 08457 48 49 50
- On arriving at the station one can catch the B5 bus which passes the station at certain times of the day, for more information about the bus times or to book the 'dial- a- ride' service contact 0845 634 0661 at least 24 hours before your trip
- Alternatively one can walk from the station to the Museum, the Museum is about 1.7 miles from the station

Walking to the Museum from the train station:

- From the station, walk down Hillfield Villas until you see the Anthony's public house, at the junction turn left on to station road
- Walk down station road until you reach the junction to Causeway Street, you will be facing the square and the large church, called St Mary's
- At the square head up Causeway Street for about 150ft and turn left on to Lady Street
- Walk down Lady Street until you reach the small roundabout; here stay left and walk down Priory Street,
- Walk down Priory Street for about ½ mile until you reach a junction with the bypass, this is the A484, opposite this junction is a junction for Meinciau Road this road is signposted to Mynyddygarreg and there is a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Follow the Meinciau Road for approx. 10 minutes and turn left onto Llangadog Road, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- Walk approx. 500ft along this road and then turn left onto Broadford Lane, this junction is signposted with a brown heritage sign for the Kidwelly Industrial Museum
- The gates into the museum are about 150ft from this junction on the right

Visiting the Museum

The entrance:

- There are two sets of gates to enter the Museum
- The first set of gates are painted green, (407cm wide), this set of gates are both open during the opening times of the Museum (please see above)
- The second set of gates are grey coloured steel (585cm wide), one of this set of gates is opened during the opening times of the Museum (please see above)

Car Park:

- The car park for the Museum is set between the 1st and 2nd set of gates
- The surface of the car park is chippings covered with grass
- The car park is (approximately 40ft x 78ft at its smallest dimensions)
- Visitors with special needs can be dropped off on the tarmacked area and the car then parked in an area near the barbershop
- For more help and advice about parking please contact the Museum (see details above)

Cycles:

- At present there are no designated cycle racks at the museum, however cycles can be secured to the rails near the reception building.

The Museum Buildings

1. The Reception

- a. The building has a sign at the base of the ramp in both English and Welsh and with braille indicating the word 'reception'
- b. There is a ramped access (132cm wide) into the reception building
- c. The wooden door (77cm wide) opens into one large room, there is a fire exit to the rear of the room (door 82cm wide and the ramp exit measures 111cm wide)
- d. The floor is covered with a (orange) carpet, the walls are a light coloured plasticised material
- e. The light in the room is both natural from the windows and electric from the florescent lighting strips
- f. The room is furnished with a large high wooden counter, 2 wooden display cases, 3 tables, 10 chairs are arranged around the room, and there are two stacks of chairs against the wall near the fire exit

2. The Toilets

- a. The toilets are housed in the first building that one approaches as you enter the Museum, it is a small wooden building painted black and grey
- b. The building has 3 signs, one at each door in both English and Welsh and with braille indicating the words 'men', 'ladies' and 'disabled'
- c. The Men's toilet:
 - i. The entrance to the men's toilet is on the side of the building nearest the tarmacked route through the site.
 - ii. The wooden door (64 cm wide) leads to a small wooden walled room which has a painted concrete floor, the room is lighted by high windows and florescent light
 - iii. Within the room there are 3 urinals, 2 sinks and 2 toilet stalls (the width of these is 72cm)
- d. The Ladies Toilet:
 - i. The entrance to the ladies toilet is on the side of the building opposite the tarmacked route through the site (facing the wall).
 - ii. The wooden door (67cm wide) leads to a small wooden walled room which has a painted concrete floor, the room is lighted by high windows and florescent light
 - iii. Within the room there are 3 sinks and 3 toilet stalls (the width of these is 63cm)

- e. The Disabled Toilet
 - i. The entrance to the disabled toilet is on the side of the building facing the gates
 - ii. The wooden door (79cm wide) leads to a small wooden walled room which has a painted concrete floor, the room is lighted by a florescent light
 - iii. Within the room there are 1 sinks and 1 toilet stalls (the room measures 155cm x 156cm)

3. The Box Room and Sorting Room

- a. The Box Room and Sorting Room is the very long building which is situated next to the reception building, the mail tinplate exhibition is housed in this building
- b. The building has a sign in both English and Welsh and with braille indicating 'Boxing Room' and 'Exhibition Starts', there is also an interpretive panel discussing the building (written in both Welsh and English) situated at the base of the steps
- c. There is both a ramp (155cm wide) and steps (150cm wide) into the building
- d. The entrance is through brown wooden doors (164cm wide) into a small white painted vestibule which has a painted concrete floor and is lit with florescent lighting
- e. There are two doors in the vestibule, one leads into the Town Council exhibition and the second leads into the box room and to the main tinplate exhibition
- f. The brown wooden door (82 cm wide) to Town Council exhibition is on the left of the vestibule; this white walled room, lighted by both natural light from a window and by florescent light is furnished with a number of exhibits and artefacts around the walls and a large table in the middle. There is a further door in this room which leads to an exhibit of the 'old Council Chamber', the door is locked and a view of the exhibit is through a very large window. Access to this room is by appointment from the Town Council (contact 01554 890203)
- g. The brown wooden door (120cm wide) on the right of the vestibule leading into the main tinplate exhibition. The exhibition is displayed along the box room through into the sorting room. This large room is lit by little natural light and florescent lighting. The flooring in this room is both concrete and brick block floors, the main thoroughfare is concrete.
- h. The box room is mostly open; there are a number of steel framed displays about the tinplate works, within the display there are a number of display cases and artefacts relating to the tinplate works. There is an enclosed display area, this is the 'kitchen' display, the brown wooden door (73cm

wide) opens into a display about women and working in the tinsplate works, the access to this room is open to all visitors. There is a large display window that observes the 'kitchen' interpretation.

- i. The sorting room, entered into through the large open archway from the box room, continues the tinsplate exhibition. To the right of the archway in the sorting room are two doors, these lead to two rooms which are not accessible to the public at present. On the left of the room there is long display of tinsplate machinery positioned behind a metal barrier. There is a further room along the left side of the sorting room, this room is the Museum stores and there is no access to this room by the public. Between the 2 rooms near the arch and the stores room there is a metal/ wooden door (151cm wide) which slides open and there are steps (112cm wide) and a Ramp (111cm wide) which leads back to the main tarmacked route through the site.
- j. There is a door (220cm wide) at the end of the sorting room building this leads towards the old castle building, there are steps (162cm wide) and a ramp (140 cm wide) back to the main tarmacked route
- k. There is an interpretive panel discussing the building (written in both Welsh and English) on the wall facing the tarmacked route, indicating how the sorting room was used in the tinsplate process

4. Old Castle

- a. The building has an interpretive panel discussing the Old Castle building
- b. The Old Castle building is the large, tall black building is sited next to the sorting room.
- c. Although there are many entrances into the building, there is at present no access to this building for the public. This building is currently being employed to house one train and soon a second train for restoration.

5. The Barbershop

- a. The building is opposite the entrance to the Box Room; this 'shed' is shop that was used by the Barber Mr Jack Wardell for over 75 years in Tumble. The 'shed' and its contents were gifted to the Museum and the Carmarthen County Museum Service; this has now been turned into a display. At present there is restricted access to the 'shed', there is a stone chipped path leading to a wooden platform (112cm wide), the door (70cm wide) leads to a viewing area, (size of viewing area 88cm wide, there is a bench in this area and so the area reduces to 56cm)
- b. The interior of the 'shed'/barbershop is painted light green and is lit by natural light from the large window. There is a small barrier which allows

visitors to look at the many artefacts and furnishings that were used by the barber, Mr Wardell; some of the walls are covered by copies of photos and pictures that were displayed by the barber.

- c. There is a PIR activated sound box which plays excerpts of the barbers talking to the BBC and the sounds of hair being cut.

6. The Office/ Mess room

- a. This building is next to the barbershop and opposite the Box Room, this building has a name plate and interpretation panel display it's the exterior.
- b. Currently there is no public to this building, at present this space is used as the Kidwelly Industrial Museum Trust Office.

7. The Blacksmiths

- a. Adjacent to the mess room is the Blacksmiths
- b. There is an external interpretation panel on this building
- c. A concrete path (201cm wide) leads to this building from the main tarmacked route through the site
- d. There is a slight ramp into the room (this is a continuation of the concrete path) which leads to the brown wooden door (166cm wide); this enters into a large room with a concrete floor, brick walls and natural/ florescent lighting.
- e. The room is furnished with number of blacksmithing and blacksmithing artefacts, although these are mostly arranged around the walls of the room there are one or two artefacts such as the anvil which are free standing in the room.

8. The Stores

- a. Next to the Blacksmiths exhibition there is a very long shed type building, this is houses the Museum workshop and the stores for Carmarthen County Museum.
- b. There is an interpretation at the front of this building explaining it use
- c. There is no public access to this building, permission to access the collection in these stores must be made with the County museum Manager on 01267 228696

9. The Hot Rolls

- a. The Hot Rolls is situated after the Old Castle building; there is a short pathway which leads to the door from the main tarmacked route.
- b. Next to the door is an interpretation panel explaining the purpose of this building in the tinsplate process

- c. This large building is fabricated from corrugated steel over the original skeleton of the building. The wooden door (78cm wide), there is a small timber foot plate on the door leads into one large room that is furnished with tinplate machinery associated with the tinplate process (this machinery has been in situ for over 100 years on this site).
- d. The room is lit by natural high windows and florescent lights
- e. The floor of the room is concrete next to the steel framed display area, this changes to the large iron plates as one passes the large machinery, these plates are uneven and are part of the original floor of the works
- f. In the concrete floored section there is also next to the wall a large wooden old fashioned electricity station artefact; there are also two large concrete pedestals on which the legs of the large overhead crane sit.
- g. Left of the door way in there is a small walkway (85cm wide) which passes between the wall of the building and the metal railings, behind which is the large Foden engine associated with the hot rolls process. The uneven iron plate floor starts at this point
- h. The room widens out and there are a number of artefacts in this space, including steel plates, tools and two large cranes. Behind the cranes is a fenced off area, which is not accessible to the public, but through which they can view a second wheel and engine associated with the works.
- i. At the end of this fenced area on the back wall of the room there is an emergency exit door (81 cm wide)
- j. There is access to the other side of the hot rolls machinery, again the floor covering here is covered with uneven iron plates

10. Morlais Mining Exhibition

- a. This is the stone building at the top most end of the site, next to the coal mine pit head frame
- b. There is an interpretation panel near at the base of the steps
- c. This building has both steps (120cm wide) and a ramped (118cm wide) access
- d. The large wooden door (162cm wide) into the first of two rooms, the floor in both rooms is painted concrete and the lighting in both rooms is a mixture of natural and florescent light.
- e. The stone walls of the building are painted white, around which there is a display about mining (this interpretation is quite dated and not bilingual; the Trust is in the process of applying for funds to refurbish this exhibit).
- f. There are two free standing display artefacts in the room, one is case with mining artefacts in and the second is a large steam pump
- g. The second room which leads from the first (in the back right hand corner), this room has some interpretation panels and actual notices from the mine

on the white painted walls, there is also a large winding drum that is associated with the pit head wheel displayed in this room (around the winding drum machinery there is some steel sheet floor plates, these are a little uneven).

- h. There is an emergency exit door (80cm wide) in the second room

11. Blackstone engine

- a. The little building next to the Morlais Mining Exhibition houses the Blackstone engine, there is an interpretation panel on the exterior of the shed
- b. The access to this shed is not easy, it is up a grassed ramp
- c. Access into the Blackstone engine building is by prior appointment with the trustees (please see contact details above)

12. The Cold Rolls

- a. This building is at the end of the tarmacked route; there is concrete entrance path in to the building (195cm wide), to the right of this path behind a metal rail is the some of the cold rolls machinery, these rolls are situated in the same position that they have occupied for over 100 years
- b. The wooden door (75cm wide) leads down a little step (18cm in height) onto a tiled floor which has two train tracks running down the middle of it, towards a large steam engine machine which turned the big wheels situated in the room
- c. The walls of the room are white painted stone and the light is supplied by natural light from the large windows and by florescent lights, there is also a steel display system in the room which has an PIR activated audio descriptive sound effect of the cold rolls process
- d. There is restricted access into this room, red and white tape restricts access over the wooden planks which cover the deep pit that was used to service the steam engine (the red and white tape is due to be replaced by a more substantial barrier in due course)

Other areas in the Museum

1. The Pickling, Annealing and Brickworks

- a. These areas are now mostly archaeology and are explained with interpretation panels at relevant points around the Museum site
- b. There are no designated pathways in these areas and visitors choosing to explore these areas can do so at their own risk
- c. There are a number of artefacts in these areas associated with the works, these may be heavy, rusty and sharp, it is recommended that visitors do not touch these

2. The Lower Works

- a. All that remains of the lower works is some archaeology and the weir, there is an interpretation panel about this area in the main Museum near the Barbershop Exhibition
- b. Most of the Lower works have been covered over with chipping and grass and are under what is now the car park, however there are some aspects of visible archaeology (particularly during the winter months)
- c. There are no designated pathways in this area and visitors choosing to explore these areas can do so at their own risk
- d. It is recommended that visitors stay away from any holes or pits

3. The Weir

- a. Associated with the lower works is the weir, there is an interpretation panel about this area in the main Museum near the front of the Barbershop Exhibition
- b. The Weir is situated over the river Gwendraeth, this can be a dangerous river as its depth and flow changes depending on the weather
- c. There are no designated pathways in this area and visitors choosing to explore these areas can do so at their own risk
- d. It is recommended that visitors stay away from the edge of the weir and the river

4. Trains

- a. There are four trains on the site
- b. One is small narrow gauge engine outside the Stores building; this engine is due to be rehomed in the Old Castle shed to allow for preservation and conservation works to be undertaken. It is hoped that this engine once restored will be able to run in and out of the shed
- c. The leaf, this is a small steam engine which is presently housed in the Old Castle works awaiting conservation

- d. The large CEGB diesel train is sited at the rear of the Stores building and opposite the Old Castle building. At present this train is accessible to the public, however it is suggested that individuals access this train at their own risk.
- e. The large steam train, this is presently sited near to the Morlais Mining exhibition, this train is accessible to the public, however it is suggested that individuals access this train at their own risk.

5. The Morlais Headframe

- a. This headframe is sited next to the large steam train and the Morlais Mining Exhibition, this is a very tall structure with a number of associated artefacts, There are no designated pathways in these areas and visitors choosing to explore these areas can do so at their own risk
- b. There are a number of artefacts in this areas associated with the mining exhibition, these may be heavy, rusty and sharp, it is recommended that visitors do not touch these
- c. This exhibition and the associated artefacts are part of a bid for funding to conserve and protect the headframe and to update the mining exhibition

6. The Chimney

- a. The Chimney is located next to the cold rolls building, and this can be seen for miles on the approach to the Museum
- b. There are no designated pathways in this area and visitors choosing to explore this area can do so at their own risk
- c. It is recommended that visitors do not climb in or around the chimney

Intellectual Access

For access to the collection and the written material about the Museum, the works, the collection, the buildings, the machinery and the site for the purposes of research please contact the Museum in writing or via email, the contact details are above.

All requests for intellectual access for research are dealt with on an individual basis as the requirements for each enquiry are unique. The trust will endeavour to do all it can to help forward academic research in the field of pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial periods.

Access to the Collection

The majority of the collection is on display around the Museum, there are books and written material that can be accessed by written request to the Trust. Access to material on display whether for research purposes or for personal use, (i.e. photography), is possible by prior appointment via the trust. Access to the collection for commercial purposes must be addressed to the trust as there may be a cost.

Access to material owned by the Carmarthen Museum Services will have to be directed to Museum Manager at the Carmarthen Museum Service. All contact details for the Trust and for the County Museum Manager are above

Access to the Trustees and other members of the Museum workforce

