

GeMoŋn – Anglesey's Geopark
Anglesey joined the European Geoparks Network in 2009. Forest Fawr is now one of two Welsh Geoparks since A walk around the island's coastal path reveals its amazing geology and islanders' long relationship with the sea. Visit www.geomoon.co.uk for more information.



The rocks and landscapes of Forest Fawr Geopark record significant events in the Earth's history and help us to understand the geological evolution of Wales, the British Isles and Europe. Here you will find evidence of ancient seas which came and went, and of mountains that were raised up as continents collided.

Find out more

Forest Fawr Geopark is set within the Brecon Beacons National Park. For more information visit one of these centres:

The Waterfalls Centre, Pontneddfechan
Located at the head of the Vale of Neath and gateway to the Waterfalls area. With its Geopark exhibition this centre is your best introduction to the area. Tel: 01639 721795.

The National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus
Displays and friendly staff will help you explore the area, or relax and enjoy the fantastic views and popular tea rooms. Tel: 01874 623366 or e-mail: visitorcentre@breconbeacons.org

Llandovery Information Centre
This welcoming centre has all the information you need about where to stay and what to do in the Geopark. Tel: 01550 720693.

The following locations can also provide some information about the Geopark and are worth a visit in their own right:

- **Craig-y-nos Country Park** - enjoy 40 acres of woodland, meadows and riverside walks in historic landscaped grounds in the upper Swansea Valley.
- **Garwnant Visitor Centre** – Forestry Commission Wales' visitor centre & café set in the Cwm Taf woodlands. Tel: 0300 068 0300
- **Black Mountain Centre**, Bynanman - café and community centre at the foot of the Black Mountain. Tel: 01269 823400

Visit these web sites:

- www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk
- www.europeangeoparks.org
- www.globalgeopark.org
- www.visitbreconbeacons.com

For more information contact the Geopark Development Officer at: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, LD3 7HP. Tel: 01874 624437 E-mail: information@fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk



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What's the story?

Climate change is a constant theme, most dramatically recorded in the legacy of ice sheets and glaciers which shaped this landscape in the last two million years. Some of the great names of 19th Century science, such as Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, spent time here. They mapped the rocks and pioneered new ideas in the study of geology. The names they derived from working in this area are now in use worldwide to define intervals of geological time. The mineral riches of the Geopark area played a vital role in the Industrial Revolution in South Wales, a region whose manufacturing output led the world.

The extraordinary story of Wales' 19th Century industrial development is celebrated only a few miles away at Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site – another UNESCO protected area.

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Quarrying silica sand at Pwll Byfre in 1929

Your visit

You can enjoy the Geopark in many different ways – on foot or by bike, in spring, summer, autumn or winter. Remember - much of Forest Fawr is hill country - whatever time of year you visit, go prepared for changeable weather. Take care on wet and slippery ground beside rivers which can run cold and deep.

Be safe! – take a look at www.foresffawrgeopark.org.uk/enjoying/be-safe

The area is well served by public paths and access land. The Geopark is here to be enjoyed but please treat these hills with respect and follow the Countryside Code. Visit www.ccw.gov.uk for more information about access to the Welsh countryside.

Waterfalls Centre
Welcome to The Waterfalls Centre



Garn Goch - Iron Age hill-fort

What are Geoparks for ?

Each of Europe's Geoparks is a protected landscape. Forest Fawr Geopark seeks to:

- **promote** local attractions to a wider audience and plays an active role in the economy of the area through the development of geotourism.
- **work with local communities** to help visitors and residents appreciate its diverse qualities and understand the need for its conservation.
- **conserve and enhance** the geology, geomorphology and landscapes of the area.
- **develop** the area's potential as a superb outdoor classroom and as a place for learning and research in the Earth Sciences.
- **contribute** to the development of the European and Global Geoparks Networks through working with other Geoparks.

Guided walk on Cilbarrh
Pen y Fan



Maen Llia - ancient standing stone

Where is Forest Fawr?

The Geopark covers the western half of Brecon Beacons National Park – some 763 square kilometres (300 square miles) in all. It takes its name from the upland area of its core which has been known for centuries as Forest Fawr - the 'Great Forest'. This is not in fact a large area covered in trees but an extensive tract of moorland which was once a royal hunting ground. You will, however, find plenty of attractive woodland in the valleys of the Geopark which surround the uplands of Forest Fawr, the Black Mountain and the central Brecon Beacons.



GeMoŋn – Anglesey Geopark
Wrexham, Bangor, Snowdonia National Park, Abergwyth, Forest Fawr, Brecon, Brecon National Park, Carmarthen, Swansea, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, England



Rock detectives

It's more than just rocks!

The Geopark is also about people and their stories.

People have been making use of rocks here for thousands of years - from the mysterious standing stones of our distant ancestors to Iron Age hill forts and from Roman roads to Norman castles. The coming of the Industrial Revolution led man to exploit the coal, silica rock, rottenstone and limestone found in the Geopark. The presence of quarries, mines and limekilns together with canals, tramways and railways for transporting these resources, bears witness to industrial activity on a large scale. Hill farms, fields bounded by dry stone walls and pillow mounds for breeding rabbits are evidence of flourishing agricultural activity. Towns and villages expanded with a growing population.

The archaeological, industrial and agricultural monuments are an integral part of the Geopark's landscape. Man and wildlife have lived alongside each other in the Geopark for more than 7,000 years. The plants and animals occupying the diverse habitats provided by watersides and woodland, moorland, scree and crag are also a part of the Geopark story. However, geology remains the foundation for the landscape in all its diversity.

Mwynhewch Fynyddoedd Godidog, Rhaeadrau Rhyfeddol, Ogofau Gwych, Bywyd Gwyllt Gogoneddus...

(Enjoy Magnificent Mountains, Wonderful Waterfalls, Spectacular Caves, Glorious Wildlife...)



Scarlet Elf Cup Dipper Sundew

What is a Geopark?

Each one of the growing international family of Geoparks is an area with an important and often extraordinary geological heritage. Geoparks are not just about rocks, however, they are also about people. Fascinating human stories emerge from their unique landscapes. Geoparks celebrate local legends and culture, archaeology and our wider relationship with the land. They are also first-class outdoor classrooms and places for scientific study. Forest Fawr Geopark became a member of the European Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Global Network in 2005.

Fforest Fawr Geopark

Wales' First European Geopark





A landscape shaped by rock

