

Ebbw Vale: Coal, Iron or Steel?

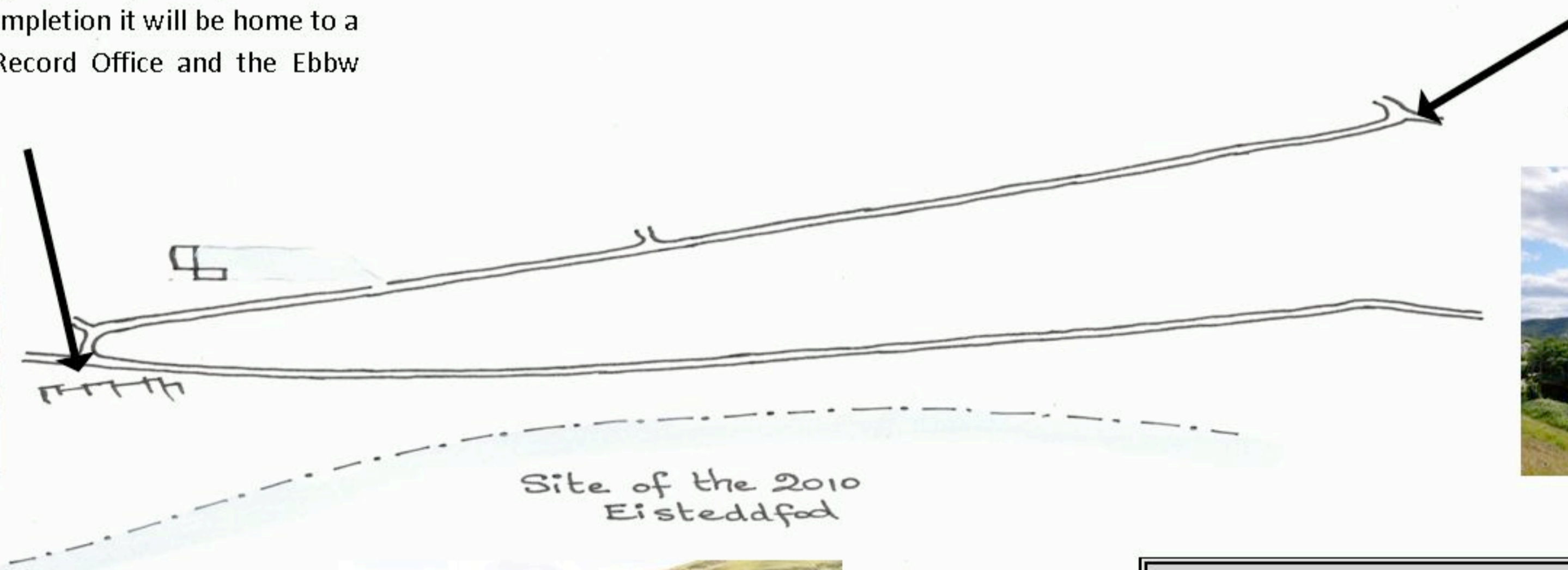
Start: The walk starts outside the General Office building, built by the Ebbw Vale Iron and Steelworks in 1915-16. It formed the administrative and managerial hub of the site up until its closure in 2002. Today it is being redeveloped as part of *The Works* regeneration and on its completion it will be home to a Visitor Centre, Blaenau Gwent Record Office and the Ebbw Vale Works Archive Trust.



The Works is committed to renewing and preserving the rich natural heritage of the area. After years of industrial activity and soil degradation vegetation on the site was limited. Today *The Works* is creating its own soils to help encourage habitat growth and is undertaking tree planting projects and landscaping of the site.

Over the 19th century the Ebbw Vale Works continued to grow. In 1844 it was bought by Abraham Darby of Coalbrookdale, and under this management the site flourished. By 1863 the company had sites in Ebbw Vale, Pontypool, Abersychan, Victoria, Sirhowy and Abercarn, plus wharfs at Newport and ore fields in Somerset and Spain.

At the summit of the walk look out over the site, which is today being re-developed by *The Works*, a partnership between the Welsh Assembly Government and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The site is being developed along sustainable development principles, which seek to promote social, community and environmental benefits alongside nurturing the economic revival of the area.



Work on the new hospital started in 2008, the 60th anniversary of the NHS, and is due for completion in late Autumn 2010. At a cost of £53 million the hospital is the first of its kind, with single occupant rooms rather than wards.

General Information

Duration: please allow approximately 30 mins.

Access: this walk is mainly along paved walkways. Where there is no pavement please keep to the grass verge that is to your left as you ascend the hill. Please exercise due caution when crossing roads and please be aware that the walk is up hill.

Toilet Facilities are available on the Eisteddfod site.

Refreshments are available on the Eisteddfod site.