

Find the ruins of the Grange

As you might have guessed, the name Monknash refers to the village's historical links with religious monks. The land here once belonged to what is known as a 'grange' – a farm run by monks to provide food and other goods for a monastery.

The monk's grange at Nash (now 'Monknash') was the richest farm owned by the monastery at Neath. It included hundreds of acres of the best farming land in Wales! The grange grew to become like a small town, with lots of different buildings all lived in and looked after by the monks.

One of these buildings is now the *Plough and Harrow* Pub, which is easy to find in the middle of the village. Other buildings that once belonged to the grange can also be discovered as ruins close-by. How many can you find?



Church: Just to the east of the *Plough and Harrow*. The Church is where the monks would have gone for prayers, usually at the beginning and end of each day's hard work on the farm.

Living Quarters and College: This is where the monks would have ate, slept and studied. These buildings can be found to the northwest of the pub, in the village of Broughton. (They are now residential properties so respect needs to be given to the residents when viewing the properties.)

A forge: Just down the lane to the west of the pub. This would have been used to produce metal items, such as tools for use on the farm.

A carpenters workshop: To the left of the pub. Like the forge, this would have been used to produce tools, furniture and building materials to support the upkeep of the farm.

Trout pools, dove cotes and animal buildings: These ruins can be found to the rear of the pub and were used to keep fish, birds and animals for eating.

Tithe barn: To the left of the pub you can find the ivy-covered remains of this once huge building – so large that the front porch alone now accommodates a modern house! The tithe barn was used to store produce that was given to the Church. Local farms would donate 10% of their yearly produce to the Church by bringing it to the tithe barn, where it would be stored.



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Chwiliwch am adfeilion Maenor yr As Fawr

Fel rydych chi wedi'i ddyfalu efallai, mae'r enw Saesneg yn cyfeirio at gysylltiadau hanesyddol y pentre â mynachod Cristnogol. Ar un adeg, roedd y tir yma yn perthyn i faenor – fferm oedd yn cael ei rhedeg gan fynachod i ddarparu bwyd a nwyddau eraill i fynachlog.

Y fferm fwyaf cyfoethog roedd y fynachlog yng Nghastell-nedd yn berchen arni oedd maenor y mynachod yn yr As Fawr. Roedd yn cynnwys cannoedd o erwau o'r tir amaeth gorau yng Nghymru! Tyfodd y faenor i fod fel tre fach, gyda llawer o wahanol adeiladau dan ofal y mynachod a lle bydden nhw'n byw.

Tafarn y *Plough and Harrow* bellach yw un o'r adeiladau hyn, sy'n hawdd cael hyd iddo yng nghanol y pentre. Gallwch chi hefyd ddarganfod adfeilion adeiladau eraill gerllaw oedd yn eiddo i'r faenor ar un adeg. Faint gallwch chi gael hyd iddyn nhw?

Yr eglwys: Ychydig i'r dwyrain o'r *Plough and Harrow*.

Yr eglwys yw lle byddai'r mynachod wedi mynd i weddio, fel arfer ar ddechrau ac ar ddiwedd y gwaith caled y bydden nhw'n ei wneud ar y fferm bob dydd.

Llety a'r Coleg: Fan hyn y byddai'r mynachod wedi bwyta, cysgu ac astudio. Gallwch chi gael hyd i'r adeiladau hyn i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r dafarn, ym mhentre Brychdwn. (Adeiladau preswyl ydyn nhw erbyn hyn, felly rhaid parchu'r bobl sy'n byw yno wrth edrych ar eu cartrefi.)

Gefail: Ychydig i lawr y lôn i'r gorllewin o'r dafarn. Byddai hon wedi cael ei defnyddio i gynhyrchu eitemau metel – offer i'w defnyddio ar y fferm, er enghraifft.

Gweithdy saer: I'r chwith o'r dafarn. Fel yr efail, byddai hwn wedi cael ei ddefnyddio i gynhyrchu offer, celfi a deunyddiau adeiladu i helpu i gynnal a chadw'r fferm.

Pyllau brithyllod, colomendy ac adeiladau anifeiliaid: Gallwch gael hyd i'r adfeilion hyn y tu ôl i'r dafarn a bydden nhw'n cael eu defnyddio i gadw pysgod, adar ac anifeiliaid i'w bwyta.

Ysgubor y degwm: I'r chwith o'r dafarn gallwch weld gweddillion yr adeilad enfawr hwn wedi'i guddio dan eiddew – mor fawr oedd e nes bod digon o le yn y porth yn unig i godi tŷ modern erbyn heddiw! Roedd ysgubor y degwm yn cael ei defnyddio i storio cynnyrch oedd yn cael ei roi i'r Eglwys. Byddai ffermydd lleol yn rhoi 10% o'u cynnyrch blynyddol i'r Eglwys drwy ddod ag e i ysgubor y degwm, lle byddai'n cael ei storio.

ARFORDIR TREFTADAETH
MORGANNWG
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