



This early 20th century photograph shows the upper Clydach Gorge looking north towards Gilwern, the track of its 1794 Clydach Railroad by that time having become a footpath. The gorge provided a natural route between coalfield and Usk Valley that made the Brecon Canal commercially viable, and was soon most intensively-used of industrial Wales. Visible to the right is the Merthyr-Tredegar-Abergavenny Railway of 1862 following Bailey's 1821 Tramroad, above which ran the 1795 Llam-march track. Left of the photograph a small section of "Joby's Pitch" can be seen following the line of a former mule-track that developed into an 1812 Turnpike that became the Merthyr-Abergavenny road. Above this, but out-of-sight, ran Bailey's 1830 tramroad to Llangattock quarries and Brecon canal at Llangattock. Modern road-construction has either obliterated, or much-altered, the photograph's foreground detail.