# Cwm Prysor Viaduct gains popularity as a hidden gem on TikTok



Cwm Prysor Viaduct, a notable yet relatively obscure landmark situated in Eryri National Park, has gained newfound attention recently, particularly among users of the social media platform TikTok. This historical structure, which spans an impressive 450 feet across a valley and stands 120 feet high, once facilitated the Blaenau Ffestiniog-Bala Railway, operating from its opening in 1882 until the final freight train crossed its arches in January 1961. The closure was prompted by a decline in passenger numbers and the subsequent decision to flood the Afon Tryweryn valley, leading to the creation of Llyn Celyn. With no plans to re-route the railway, the track was ultimately removed later that decade.

Despite its grandeur, the viaduct has often been overlooked, remaining a "hidden gem" in the sparsely populated stretches of Eryri, nestled between the towns of Trawsfynydd and Bala. Access to this historic site is facilitated by a "permissive path" that allows entry to the public, an arrangement established between the Eryri National Park Authority and the landowner. As a result, the path has gradually become partially reclaimed by nature, offering picturesque views.

The recent surge of interest began when Jason Rees showcased the viaduct on his TikTok account, @altitudecaptures. In his video, he stated, "It's situated in a nice quiet location with stunning views. Easily accessible to all hiking levels as the path is flat, although boggy in parts. Great to see nature growing all over the historic viaduct." The post has since garnered over 4,000 likes and nearly 1,500 shares, largely receiving positive responses from viewers. Comments highlighted the viaduct's beauty, with one user expressing, "this is absolutely stunning, where is this?" and another stating, "I love nature. You build something, abandon it and nature will claim it."

However, not all feedback was favourable. Concerns have been raised regarding potential negative impacts of increased foot traffic drawn by the social media exposure. Georgina, a local resident, expressed apprehension, remarking, "Oh no. Hafren forest has been ruined by social media, so here goes another wonderful place." She noted worries that visitors attracted by TikTok may not respect the area, while another local resident echoed her sentiment with complaints about litter, particularly waste from dog owners. Conversely, some community members defended the broader sharing of such sites, arguing that public access should not be restricted.

Despite these discussions, many agree that the viaduct's location, characterised by a boggy landscape, will likely prevent it from becoming overrun, even as its visibility on social media platforms grows. As Cwm Prysor Viaduct continues to be highlighted in various online discussions, it stands at the intersection of nature's reclamation and the impact of digital exposure in promoting hidden historical treasures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <http://www.forgottenrelics.org/bridges/cwm-prysor-viaduct/> - This URL provides historical context about Cwm Prysor Viaduct, including its construction as part of the Bala & Festiniog Railway and its operational years until 1961. It also details its listing as a Grade II structure.
* <https://balaffest.org.uk/cwm-prysor-viaduct/> - This website offers additional insights into the history of Cwm Prysor Viaduct, including its role in the railway line and how it has been preserved despite the closure of the railway.
* <https://www.loveouradventures.com/post/cwm-prysor-viaduct-blaenau-ffestiniog-bala-railway> - This post describes the viaduct's location and how it forms part of the landscape between Bala and Trawsfynydd, offering scenic views and opportunities for exploration.
* <https://www.tiktok.com/@altitudecaptures> - This TikTok account is noted for highlighting the Cwm Prysor Viaduct in a video that has attracted significant attention, contributing to its recent surge in popularity.
* <https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/> - The Snowdonia National Park Authority has arrangements for public access to Cwm Prysor Viaduct, ensuring that visitors can enjoy its scenic beauty while respecting the environment.