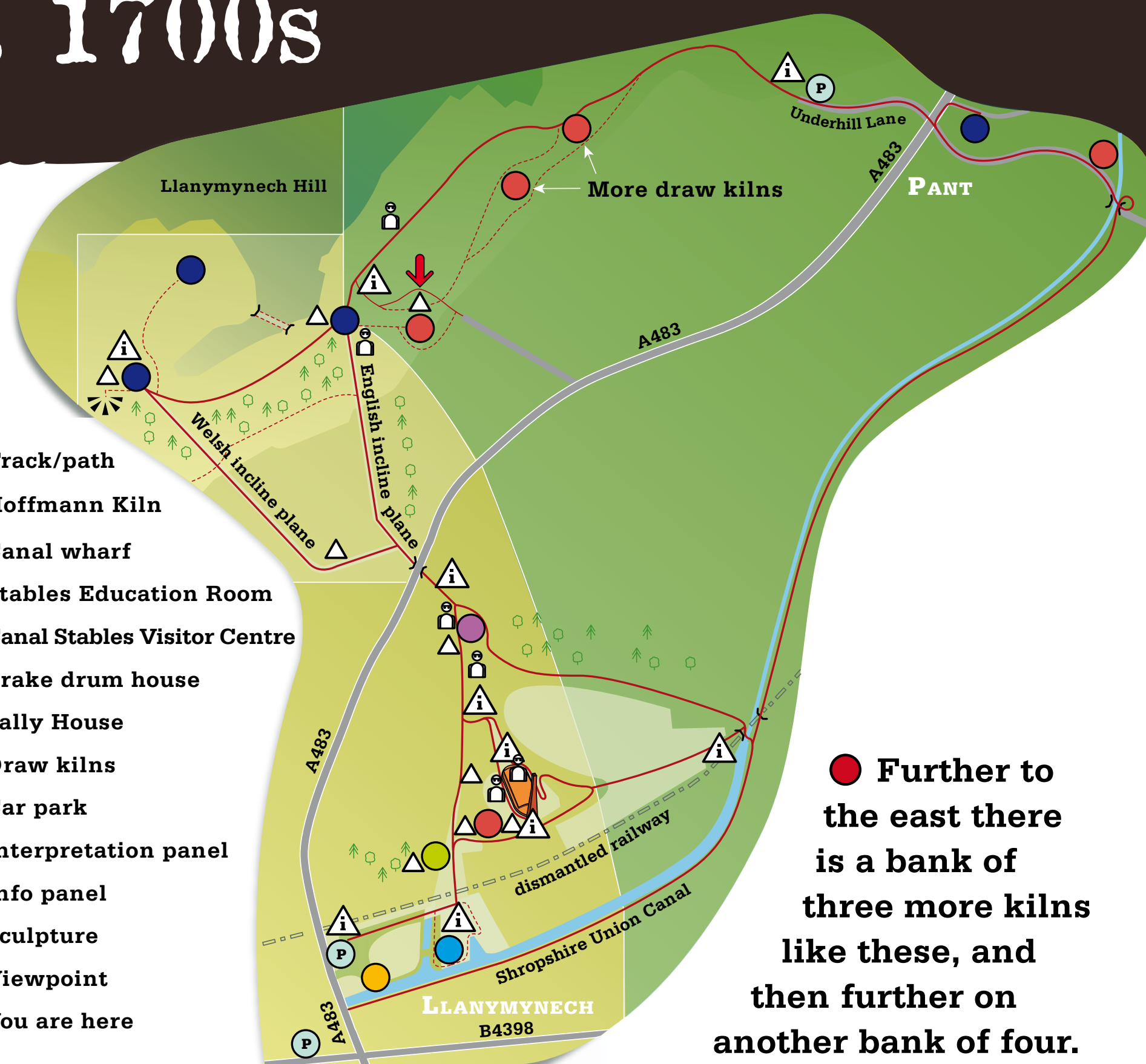


DRAW KILNS FROM THE LATE 1700s

Kiln workers tipped alternate layers of freshly quarried limestone and coal brought by horse and cart into this 12m deep kiln. Limestone was burnt to produce quicklime which would enrich the local farmland.

This is one of a pair of 'vertical shaft' draw kilns that was built in front of the quarry face – now much further back – before the canal and railway developments of the 1800s. This kiln has been cleaned out and the crumbling top courses of brick have been replaced.



● Further to the east there is a bank of three more kilns like these, and then further on another bank of four.

Although a kiln could be continuously topped up it eventually became clogged with ash and unburnt stone. When this happened the second of the pair was lit and the first one was cleaned out. To your left you will see the half filled remains of the second kiln.

At the end of the arched access tunnel at the base, a kiln worker would rake out the burnt lime through the 'draw hole' and load it straight on to waiting tramway trucks or horse carts. This was hot, choking work that blistered the skin as lime dust reacted with sweat.

If you walk to your left and then down and then bear right you will come to the base of the kilns. Alternatively take the much steeper route down to your right.

! **BEWARE** – beyond the fence there is a steep and unprotected drop