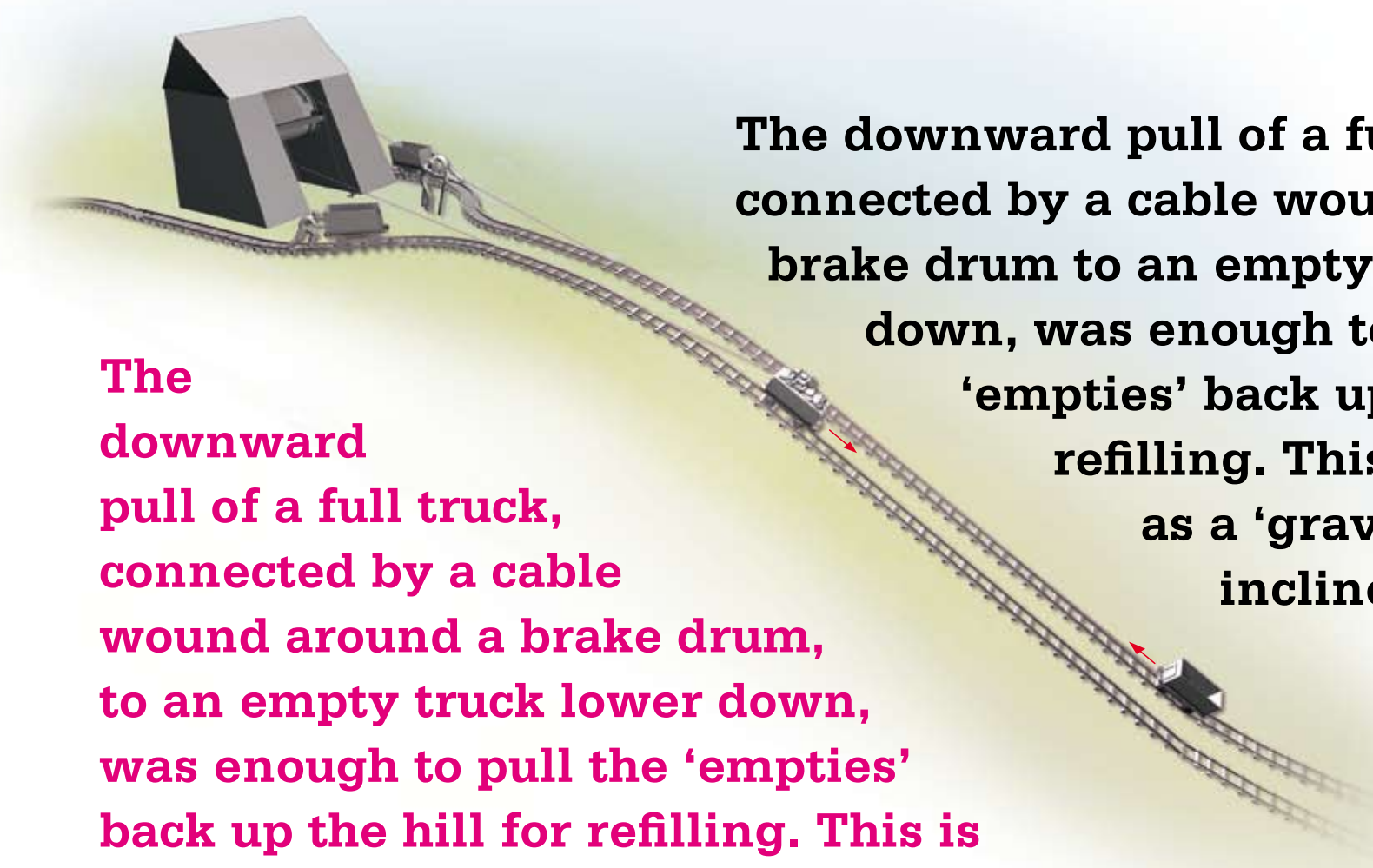
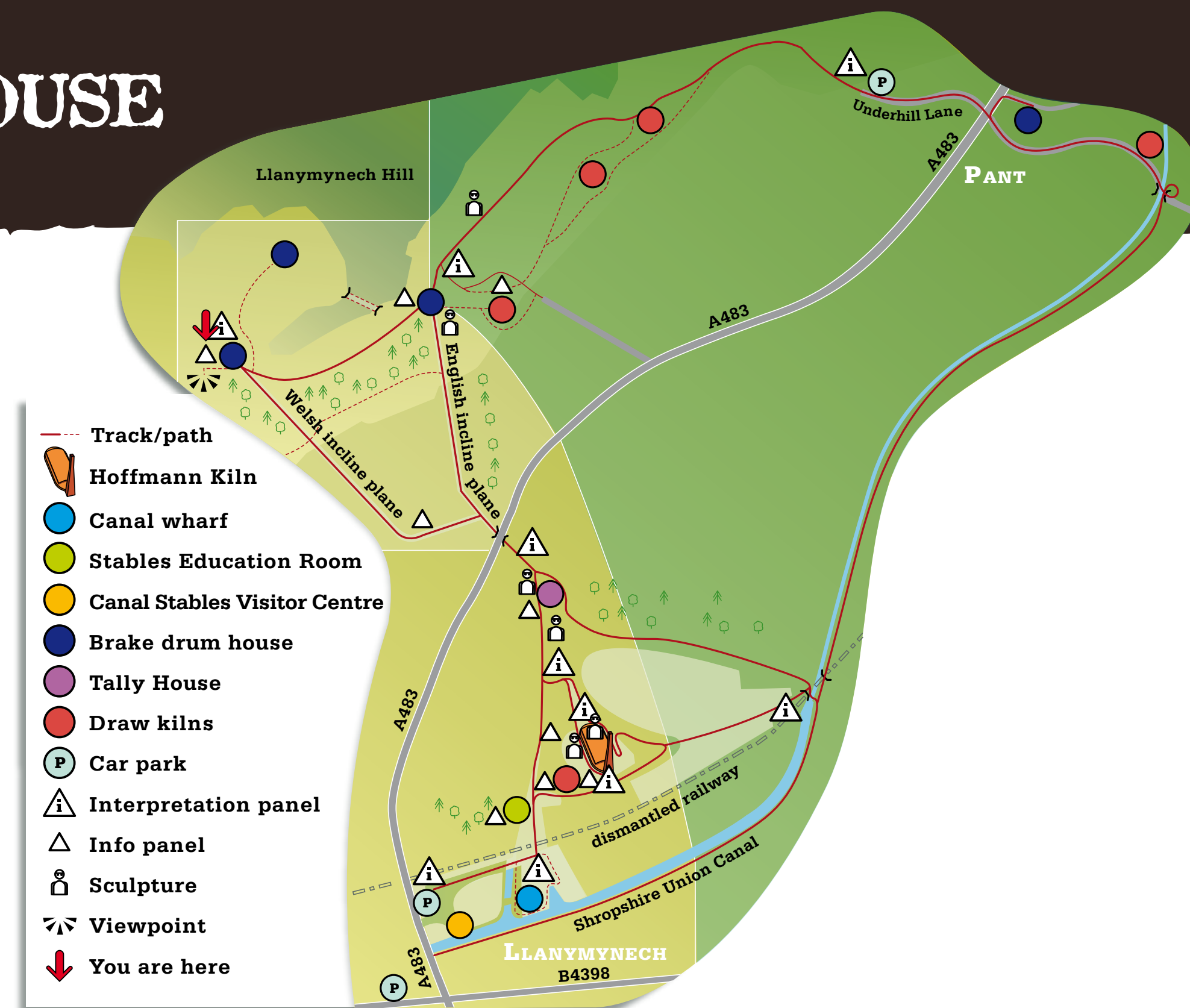


THE WELSH BRAKE DRUM HOUSE

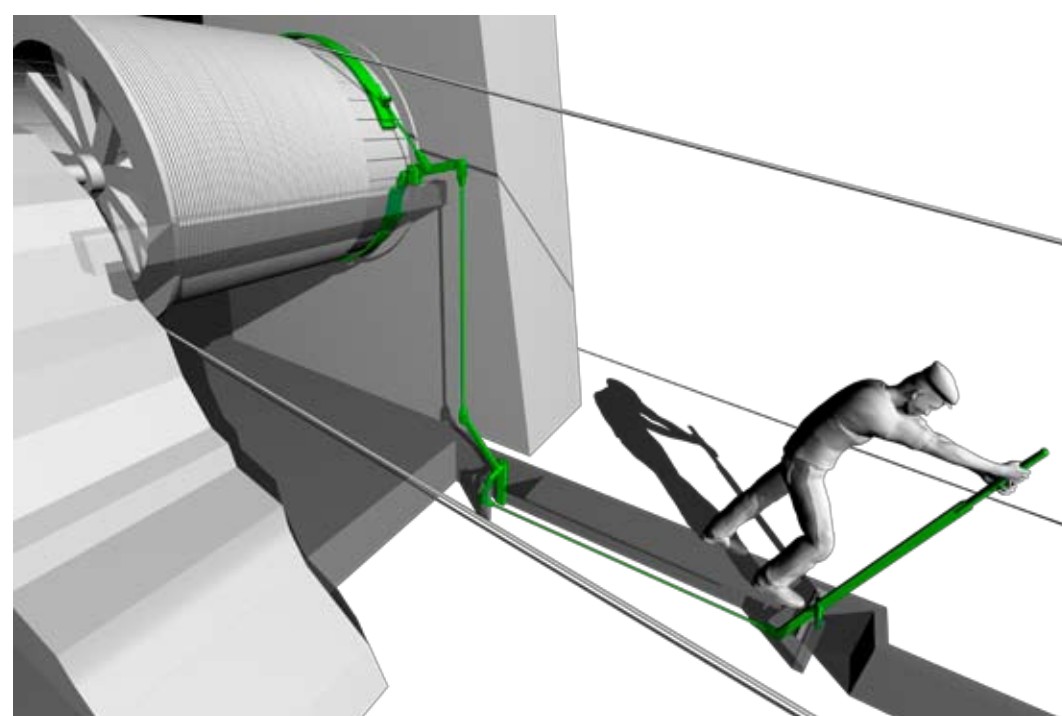
The **BRAKEMAN** – often a boy – controlled the descent of rock-filled trucks by a system of levers that tightened or released the brake mechanism around the drum.

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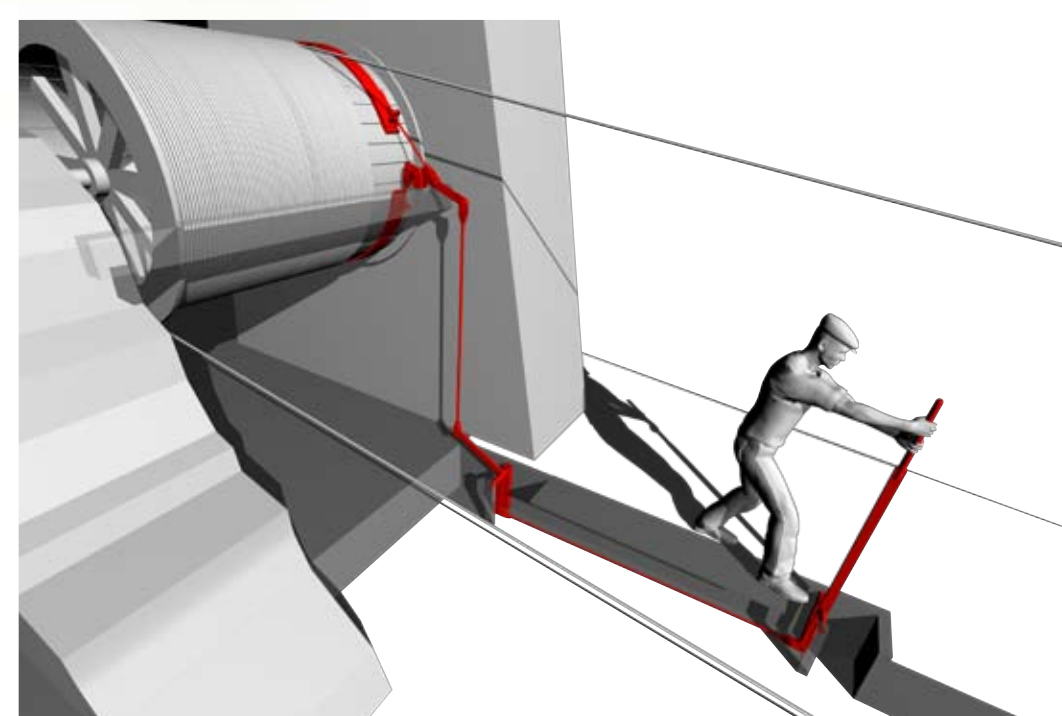


The downward pull of a full truck, connected by a cable wound around a brake drum to an empty truck lower down, was enough to pull the 'empties' back up the hill for refilling. This is known as a 'gravity balanced' incline.

The downward pull of a full truck, connected by a cable wound around a brake drum, to an empty truck lower down, was enough to pull the 'empties' back up the hill for refilling. This is known as a 'gravity balanced' incline.



Brake off – trucks free to move
Brake off – trucks free to move



Brake on – slow down and stop
Brake on – slow down and stop

200m along the path to the east is the English drum house with a replica drum and brake mechanism.

200m along the path to the east is the English drum house with a replica drum and brake mechanism.

A small brake drum house from the early 1800s was contained in the stone building in front of you. As production increased a much larger brake drum mechanism was suspended between the original structure and the thick supporting 'wall' behind you.

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