In 1873, a small group of local men prospected the slate outcrops on the hillside above Llanfair. The slate was angled at thirty degrees, and realising the potential, a rental was arranged with the landowner, and work began. Two Canadians and two Cornishmen were drafted in, presumably for their expertise in mining techniques. The quarry itself had an excellent location, affording good slate and without the tight boundaries that the quarries at Blaenau suffered. The enterprising locals did not suffer transportation problems either, the slate was taken on a one mile journey by horse and cart to the quayside at Pensarn on the river Artro.

In its height, forty men toiled under the mountain until its closure in 1906.
Halfway up the zig-zag track lies the old quarry office, and not too far away is the cutting shed, just a little further down. These are all that remain of the surface workings. The original adit one soon became a ‘window’ in the workings as the second level was driven through the upper floor. There are two portals for level two and below are a third and fourth level. The levels extend north and south with nine worked out chambers accessible. There are further workings on these levels which are flooded, as is level four making about half of the mine inaccessible. From the very first chamber a short incline connects level two with three and a flooded air shaft links to level four.

During the war the m.o.d. used llanfair quarry as an ammunition storage depot. The rock built shelving remains. Llanfair is open to the public, it is a gentle self guided tour taking about an hour to complete.

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