

# Neath



CALLING ALL EXPLORERS

# Treasure Quest Documents Enclosed









**FAMILIES** 







THEME

DURATION

WALKING

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HISTORICAL

ACCESSIBILITY ACCESSIBILITY

## Secret Explorer Quest Notes



## The Neath Smugglers Secret Stash

It's long been known that smugglers would operate along the River Neath in the 19th-century, bringing contraband over from Ireland on coal ships. If local legends are to be believed, Annie Horde, landlady of Bounty Inn, was the mastermind behind one notorious gang. The story goes that she made a small fortune during their numerous operations, which she stashed away somewhere in town. After their arrest and transportation to Australia, their ill-gotten gains were lost... until now! The Expedition Society has been in touch with Digger Horde, the great-great-grandson of the gangs' leader. He's sent us a crinkled old treasure map, all the way from Melbourne! The map contains a list of Clues and potential locations, pointing to Annie's legendary lost loot! We need you - most intrepid Explorers - to solve the Clues and track down the treasure trove. Good luck!

## Ready to strike gold?

We need avid explorers to prove their amazing clue-solving skills. Your quest for the hidden treasure is above, your instructions are below. This is a real-life self-guided adventure!

## Navigating your expedition

You don't need a map to solve your Treasure Trail. The directions will lead you from start to finish. If you miss an answer along the way, simply retrace your steps and try again.

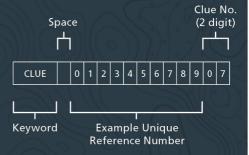
## Discovering the treasure

Every sneaky clue you answer on your Trail will be a name or number that matches a location on your treasure map. These are shown on the back page of your Trail booklet and, once found, can be removed from your search. At the end of your Trail, you should be left with just one location. 'X' marks the spot!

## Stuck on a clue?

If you can't solve a tricky clue, text us at HQ. We'll use our maps and research to unearth the correct answer and text it back to you (small network charges may apply). We don't want to accidentally lead eavesdropping treasure-seekers to the loot first, so you can only use this Secret Messaging Service three times.

Text the word CLUE to 88802, followed by a space then your 10-digit unique reference number (found on the back of this Trail) and the 2-digit clue number that you are stuck on. e.g.



#### **Adventure Details**

You're in for some twists and turns as you roam through the heart of Neath in search of the crucial Clues.

With a short detour, it could be a suitable adventure for intrepid Explorers using wheelchairs and pushchairs.

#### **BASE CAMPS**

Hard-working Adventurers may need to rest and refuel during a challenging quest. There are plenty of chances to stop for refreshments and stock up on snacks along the way. Pack supplies and enjoy a picnic in the park at Clues 04-08. Find toilets on Orchard Street, just outside the park.

#### Let's Go

Park your expedition vehicle at the Neath multi-storey car park, Prince of Wales Drive (SA11 3NB).

To begin your quest, exit the car park on the ground floor past Shop Mobility with the clock tower in front of you.

## Directions

Trek past the front of Wilko's and twist left down the path.

Cautiously cross over Water Street and go down the alley to the right of No 18, towards St David's Church with the clock tower.

### Clue 01

A tavern along here was named in honour of a WW1 hero who lived in Neath; he was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC).

The three initials of his name form the first word of a place on your treasure map, shown on the back page of your Trail booklet. Cross it off; no treasure there.

### Clue 02

Turn left to walk round to the front of the church to solve the next Clue.

Discover what was placed in the tower with a peal of bells. One of the items matches a place on your treasure map that you can eliminate and then move on!

## **Warning**

Take GREAT CARE as you advance on this perilous quest, ace Adventurers. The roads through town can get quite busy, so stay alert when crossing over. Please supervise Mini Explorers closely; don't let them run ahead in search of the crucial Clues.

## Directions

Cross over the road, when you judge it safe to do so, to the entrance of Victoria Gardens opposite St David's Church.

Answer the next Clue and then walk along the path in a clockwise direction solving Clues along the way.

#### Clue 03

You're off to a flying start, intrepid Explorers; keep up the great work!

One of the Mayors mentioned at the gate has three initials that appear at the end of a location on the treasure map. Work out which one and then delete it

## Fact File

Victoria Gardens is a Grade II listed urban park in the centre of Neath, opened for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee on 22 June 1897.

It officially reopened as Victoria Gardens on 30 June 1898.

## Clue 04

Whose is the hand that can be seen in the following research image?

The start of his name is the first part of a place on the map that you can now cross off.

## Photofile



## **Top Secret**



During your travels, you may bump into some other Adventurers on the same expedition. You'll know when you spot them as they'll have red research notes just like yours! Remember to give them the Explorers' Signal (left hand thumbs up) to show that you're on the same quest.

#### Clue 05

Continue along the path to discover three who died in the Spanish Civil War.

One of the places these three came from is contained in a place name on the map, which you can delete.

### Clue 06

Keep going on past the single story building to read about the birds. If you add a great tit to a coal tit, you get a chaffinch.

Now, add a greenfinch to a robin, and the start of your answer is the start of a place to help you solve this Clue and eliminate another place.

#### Clue 07

Over on the grass is a ring of large standing stones. How many are there? Add these to the number of pillars holding up the bandstand roof.

One of the digits in your answer is hidden across another location you can remove.

## Top Secret



Uh oh, you're making a great start on your journey to the hidden hoard, but you've caught the gaze of some curious locals! Gather some sticks and make an X on the ground. X marks the spot the other treasure seekers will think they've actually found the buried loot! That should give you a good head start...

## Photofile



#### Clue 08

Continue skirting around the outside of the park until you come to a fountain.

Apart from 'of' and 'this', which other word appears twice here? Now you can eliminate another spot on the map!

## Directions



Exit the gardens and carefully make your way across to the English Baptist Church opposite the row of bus stops in Orchard Street.

Dive left along Orchard Street, keeping the bus stops on your left, then slink right into Queen Street.

#### Clue 09

Seek two dates associated with the following research image.

How many thousands of years are the dates apart? Your answer appears in a location where no treasure is hidden.

## Photofile



## Clue 10

Continue to the end of Queen Street to seek the following research image. How many years after the building was opened was it then renovated?

If A=1, B=2, C=3, etc., convert the two digits of your answer to letters that appear in the middle of a place to delete.

## Photofile



## Fact File

One of Neath's famous daughters is Katherine Jenkins, who was born in Neath.

She is a popular classical crossover singer who performs across a spectrum of operatic arias, popular songs, musical theatre and hymns.

#### Clue 11

Study a town map nearby.

Draw imaginary lines between pictures of the Castle Hotel and Victoria Gardens and between the Library and the Mechanics Institute. Where they cross can be removed from your treasure map.

## Directions

Facing the map, twist right along Green Street, past the indoor market on your left, towards the Town Centre.

On reaching the crossroads and pedestrianised Square, walk diagonally across the Square, between the black bollards, to St Thomas's Church.

#### Clue 12

Pay close attention to read all about the church.

If 1,1 = 'established', 3,15 ='Coleman' and 5,10 = 'monuments', then combine 4,2 and 2,6 to eliminate another loot-free location.

## Fact File

The Neath Great Fair - which is the oldest fair in Wales - is recognised as the fourth largest Chartered Street Trading Fair in the UK.

It always takes place on the second Thursday of September. The fair can trace its origin back over the centuries to the original Charter granted in 1280.

### Clue 13

Enter the churchyard as it's high time to solve another Clue.

At a quarter to three, what numbers do the big hand and little hand point to (not the Roman Numerals)? Subtract one from the other; your answer is in a place on the map.

## Directions

Exit the church by the gates and steps opposite to where you came in.

Turn right past Llewellyn Jones Solicitors, where another vital Clue awaits.

#### Clue 14

You're making fantastic progress, ace Adventurers: everyone at the Exploration Society is super impressed. Keep it up!

Who did Alfred Russell Wallace collaborate with? A place on the map has the same initials and isn't the site of the hidden hoard; cross it off.

## Fact File

Wallace collected thousands of animal specimens, mostly birds, beetles and butterflies in the Amazon.

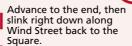
Disaster struck on his trip back to England. His ship caught fire in the Atlantic and sank, along with most of his specimens and field notes. There were no casualties, though.

## Clue 15

Continue to follow the road round to the right, keeping the church on your right. You could 'stop for good food'.

If you scramble the letters of this conservation area, you can remove a place on the map.

## Directions



Now, dart right along New Street and follow the road down until you meet The Angel.

## Clue 16

Add up the digits of the year associated with The Angel.

You can now cross off a place on the map, which is an anagram of the answer to your sum spelt in letters.

#### Clue 17

Make a short detour to your left along The Parade to 'step up' and read about the inaugural meeting here of the Welsh Rugby Union.

The first name of the man who presented the plaque will help you eliminate another location.

#### Clue 18

Return to The Angel and venture straight ahead up Cattle Street to the castle.

Who chose the site of the original castle? His name lends itself to a location that you can now erase.

## Fact File

The castle was established by Robert, Earl of Gloucester, sometime between 1114 and 1130. The stone buildings you can see came later. The castle was virtually demolished in 1321, after the war between Edward II's lover Thomas le Despenser and the rebellious English lords.

## Directions

Now, with the castle behind you, follow the signs to the Civic Centre along Old Market Street.

Quickly scan around to make sure you're not being followed by any rival treasure hunters before you crack the Clue!

## Clue 19

'As I was going to St Ives, I met a man...' What you need to find is what was sited here for nearly 600 years before moving to Corporation Field.

It is a vital Clue to another place to eliminate from your quest.

## Directions

Advance along, crossing over Wind Street and heading on into Water Street until you reach The Greyhound Pub.

You're getting SO CLOSE now, ace Adventurers; there are just a couple of Clues left to crack. Don't give up!

## Clue 20

If 'CD' goes with Civic Centre and 'CN' goes with Neath Castle, what goes with 'GF'?

Cross this penultimate treasureless place off your map and press on to solve your last Clue.

## Fact File

Neath provides a real authentic Welsh experience. A popular, historic market town, it is undergoing an £80 million transformation project. It is also marching into the future by creating the UK's first 'positive energy' affordable housing development, 'Homes as Power Stations'.

## Directions

Walk past the front of Wilko's and on to the shiny new Civic Centre by your car park.

This is it, treasure seekers, the final Clue in your quest. You can do this!

## Clue 21

Spot the symbol in the following research image. Then above it, find the letters missing from the following sequence:

'LON\_T\_BC'.

The missing letters are the initials of the last empty place to cross off the map!

## Photofile



#### Success!

Fantastic work, treasure seekers! You should be left with one location on your map where the ill-gotten gains are buried! Be sure to submit your answer to HQ so that we can send out the Exploration Society's top diggers! Find out how to do this on the next page.



## Debriefing

That went swimmingly, Adventurers - you were amazing out there! Now, we need you to act fast and submit your findings via our online transmission portal. Once we receive your report on where the treasure is buried, members of the Exploration Society HQ will head out with their spades to see if you're correct. Let's hope you're right so we can return Annie Horde's ill-gotten gains to where they belong. Your incredible treasure-seeking skills are one of a kind; we can't wait to explore with you again!

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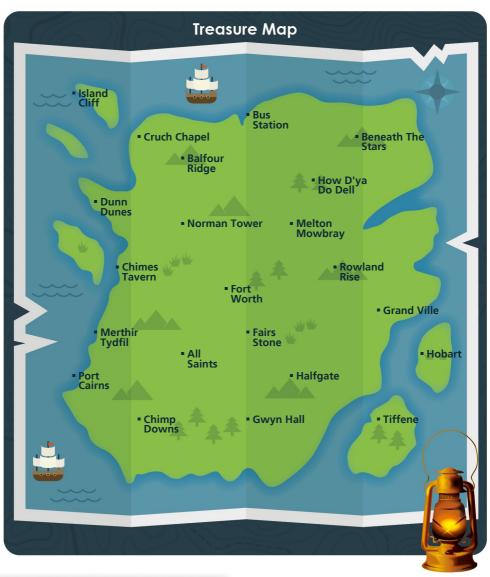


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