

The Pantteg landslip area - part of a larger landslip system located to the southwest of Ystalyfera in the Swansea Valley – has a long history of ground movements going back to 1897.

Mynydd Allt-y-Grug (hill of heather), which rises majestically above Ystalyfera is known locally as “the moving mountain” and the 338-metre high feature is riddled with old mine workings, quarries and tunnels thanks to the area’s industrial past.

It was the site of around 16 metal works, 40 furnaces and a number of coal mines.

Nearly 30 landslip events have been recorded in Pantteg since the earliest records but it’s likely there have been many more which have gone unrecorded. The form and frequency of these events varies but it appears there’s often a link between high rainfall and instability.

A large number of buildings have been abandoned due to landslides. The former village of Pantyffynnon, which was in the greater landslip area, became a ghost town overnight when hundreds of villagers were evacuated from the area in the 1960s due to ground movement.

Timeline of recorded landslips in the landslip area:

- 1/01/1897 Landslide noted on Geological map.
- 01/01/1946 Soil moving in garden of No. 8 Mount Hill into road as a result of disruption to drainage in nearby quarry.
- 01/01/1946 71 Mount Hill - soil sliding onto road.
- 01/02/1951 Boulders falling from steep slopes above Mount Hill on to garden of 39 Graig Road.
- 01/08/1954 Torrential rain forced three houses to be evacuated at Twyncerdinen. Not know if due to mud flow or just flooding.
- 01/06/1955 Movement in hillside and retaining wall in junction of church road and Graig road - cracks in retaining wall.
- 01/10/1957 Thousands of tons of mud blocked 100m of A4068. Movement at the time attributed to quarry drainage.
- 02/10/1957 Cracks noted in retaining wall to rear of 41-49 Graig road/church road junction.
- 01/11/1957 Threat of boulder slide at 45 Mount Hill.
- 01/12/1959 Major incident to No.60 to Golden Lion Pub on Graig Rd, single line traffic on A4068 and 24 inch water main disturbed over 70 yards.
- 01/11/1964 Boulder noted threatening Pantteg.
- 01/05/1965 New Road opened by Local Authority as a result of December 1959 landslide.
- 19/12/1965 At Pantteg, 'excessive water, surface and subsoil forced the fissured earth to fall'. Further boulders were in 'imminent danger of falling'.

Graig Road was blocked by 15ft of soil. Pylons were tilting and cracks were evident on Graig Road.

- 01/05/1967 Local Authority offered to buy 32 affected houses.
- 01/10/1967 Further movement of road where previous water main damage occurred.
- 06/11/1967 Continued spreading of landslides and described as 'incurable' in large meeting. 40 houses warned of dangerous place to live. Decided to investigate to determine if remedial measures were possible.
- 21/11/1968 Dangerous boulders present at Pantteg school.
- 01/10/1974 Drainage scheme completed - no major movements in early 70s.
- 22/01/1975 Movement behind 41-48 Pantteg (Mount Hill). Considerable flow of water occurred introducing fresh cracks and movement behind the school which was subsequently closed.
- 01/09/1975 Water falling over the face of the Pantteg quarry sank with the ground, missing the drainage system.
- 01/06/1979 Additional drainage work completed.
- 01/03/1981 Minor surface slides by Bush Inn, no damage.
- 01/06/1983 Properties adjacent to the Bush Inn were demolished and area was landscaped.
- 19/03/1981 Two minor landslips.
- 19/11/1986 Rotational slump at north end of Pantteg, 6 houses affected and another slide affected road.
- 22/12/2012 Landslip blocked roadway between Penygraig House and Pantteg Chapel.
- 27/01/17 Landslip at the back of homes in the Cyfyng Rd area followed by a further incident in the same area in June 2017.