



To continue with the walk, turn right and continue along the lane, which is a public bridleway, for approximately 600m until you meet a road to your left which follows the line of the electricity pylons. Take this road.

At a fork in the road take the right hand path down a stony gravel track running between two high earth banks. This rough track was, at one time, a parish road.

In the distance to your right you will be able to see **6 Tudor Park Football Ground**, home to Maesteg Park Football Club, founded in 1945.

The gravel track will give way to a smooth concrete track straight ahead of you. The route passes through a wooded area to a low bridge crossing Nant Sychbant. Just after the bridge, take the right hand fork up the hill. After approximately 20m take the signposted public bridleway on the left hand side, just



Old Parish Road

before the bend. This is known locally as Rocky Roads.

At the end of the bridleway turn right into a lane. This section of route crosses the old track bed of a section of the Llynfi Valley Railway.

7 The Llynfi Valley Railway, formed part of the Port Talbot line. In the Nineteenth Century trains carried iron ore and coal from the Llynfi Valley to the docks of Port Talbot and Porthcawl for shipment.

Keeping Cwm Cerwyn Cottages on your left, continue up the hill and follow the lane to Cwm Cerwyn Farm. Opposite the farm go through a small field gate bear left and continue over a waymarked metal stile. Cross the field until you see a small metal gate. Go through the gate and continue to follow the waymarked path through another field gate. Cross diagonally across the field towards two metal stiles. In the distance you will be able to see the golf links of Maesteg Golf Club and a TV relay station mast.

8 Maesteg Golf Club opened in 1913, and its facilities were offered free of charge to Belgian refugees during the 1st World War. During World War II the club shared its home with the local Home Guard.

Go over the stiles and turn right onto the access track heading towards Bryn Mawr. The



- Roy Meredith
- Barrie Evans

leaflet

Thanks to the following for helping to prepare the walk and text or for sponsoring the

Acknowledgements

o make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Tourist Information Centres. These are at McArthur Glen Designer Outlet off Junction 36 the M4 (telephone **01656 654906**) and at John Street, Porthcawl (telephone **01656 786639**). For further general information about the Bridgend area you can contact us via e-mail at tourism@bridgend.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can visit our website - which is at www.bridgend.gov.uk

Accommodation

- There is parking provision at the following:
- On-street parking in Garth
- Car Park on Llynfi Road, Maesteg which is free and covered by CCTV 24 hours a day

Car Parking

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's, Public Transport Section on **01656 642559** or the Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** www.traveline.info

Public Transport



Maesteg Council Chambers

Follow the Countryside Code wherever you go. You will get the best out of the countryside and help to maintain it now and for the future.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



RESPECT PROTECT ENJOY

Countryside Code

TV relay mast will be on your left hand side. Follow the waymarked path along the field boundary and over a series of metal stiles to Bryn Mawr Farm, exiting onto Keir Hardie Road via a set of stone steps.



Views over Margam Mountain

CHOICE! At this point there is a link to Llynfi Valley Walk 5. To continue on Walk 5 turn left. To continue with Walk 2 cross the road and follow the signposted footpath, over a wooden stile and through a field.

VIEWPOINT! Views across **9 Maesteg** (which translates literally as Fair Fields) can be seen.

At the bottom left hand corner of the field take the narrow, defined path through the vegetation and follow the narrow cobbled path between the houses, which exits onto Vicarage Terrace. Turn left and follow Vicarage Terrace to the junction with Neath Road.

At the junction turn right. Follow the pavement

For further information about this walk, to pass on your comments and suggestions or to report any practical problems on any of the paths please contact the Rights of Way Section, Communities Directorate, Morien House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (Telephone **01656 642553** or **01656 642593**) or by e-mail at rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk



Views over Maesteg

Explorer Map T66 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil. We also recommend you refer to the OS

to walk in once you are on a public right of way. We also recommend you refer to the OS with arrows will assist you as to which direction posts along the route. Directional waymarks logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and walking the route try and look out for the Walk map and instructions inside this leaflet. When it should be easy to follow the route using the

make use of verges whenever you can. Always follow the Countryside Code. When you are walking on minor roads keep to the right and and drink with you and be prepared to get fit! clothes and good shoes/boots and take food slippers in places. Remember to wear suitable The going can be steep and may be wet and

Advice and Information

of Neath Road to the crossroads in the town centre. Continue straight ahead into Talbot Street. This is one of the main shopping areas in Maesteg and there are cafes, pubs and shops where refreshments are available.

Continue along Talbot Street until the T-junction with Castle Street. You will pass the impressive **10 Maesteg Town Hall**. The Town Hall with its prominent clock tower, was built in 1881. It is a Grade II listed building, housing an auditorium and stage which hosts live performances, cinema showings and events such as weddings.



Maesteg Town Hall Reproduced with kind permission of Maesteg Town Hall

Turn right into Castle Street. At the traffic lights cross Castle Street by Somerfield. Maesteg station is signposted in front of you and you can catch a train to return to Llynfi Valley Walks 1, 3, 4 and 5 from this point.

Llynfi Valley Walk 2

Up to 8km (5 miles) 3 1/2 Hours

This leaflet describes a walk from Garth Station to Maesteg Station through the Llynfi Valley countryside and requires you to make your own way back to your starting point. The route is approximately 8km (5 miles). The walk should take approximately 3 to 3 1/2 hours to complete but you should allow a bit more time to enjoy the views of the countryside. The route uses a combination of maintainable highway, public footpaths and public bridleway.

For convenience the directions below are written with Garth Station as the starting point. You could, however, equally start from Maesteg Station or any point along the route, and if travelling in the opposite direction, simply reverse all directions. There is also a link to Llynfi Valley Walk 1 from Garth Station.

1 The Llynfi Valley played an important part in the industrial heritage of South Wales. Iron ore was mined from surrounding hillsides and there were six coal collieries in the area, of which Garth was one, in existence from 1864 to 1930.

Leave Garth Station by the exit leading to Park View. Continue along Park View to the junction with Llywdarth Road. Cross the road, turn right and then take the public footpath, which is signed, on the left hand side.

Follow this footpath uphill between the houses and up a flight of wooden steps. Continue straight ahead for approximately 350m until you reach a metal field gate. Pass through the gate and cross the field.

VIEWPOINT! To your left, views can be seen of surrounding countryside.

You will exit the field onto Alma Road via a stone stile. Turn left and continue along Alma Road until you reach Bryn Celyn. Cross Bryn Celyn at the staggered crossroads by the

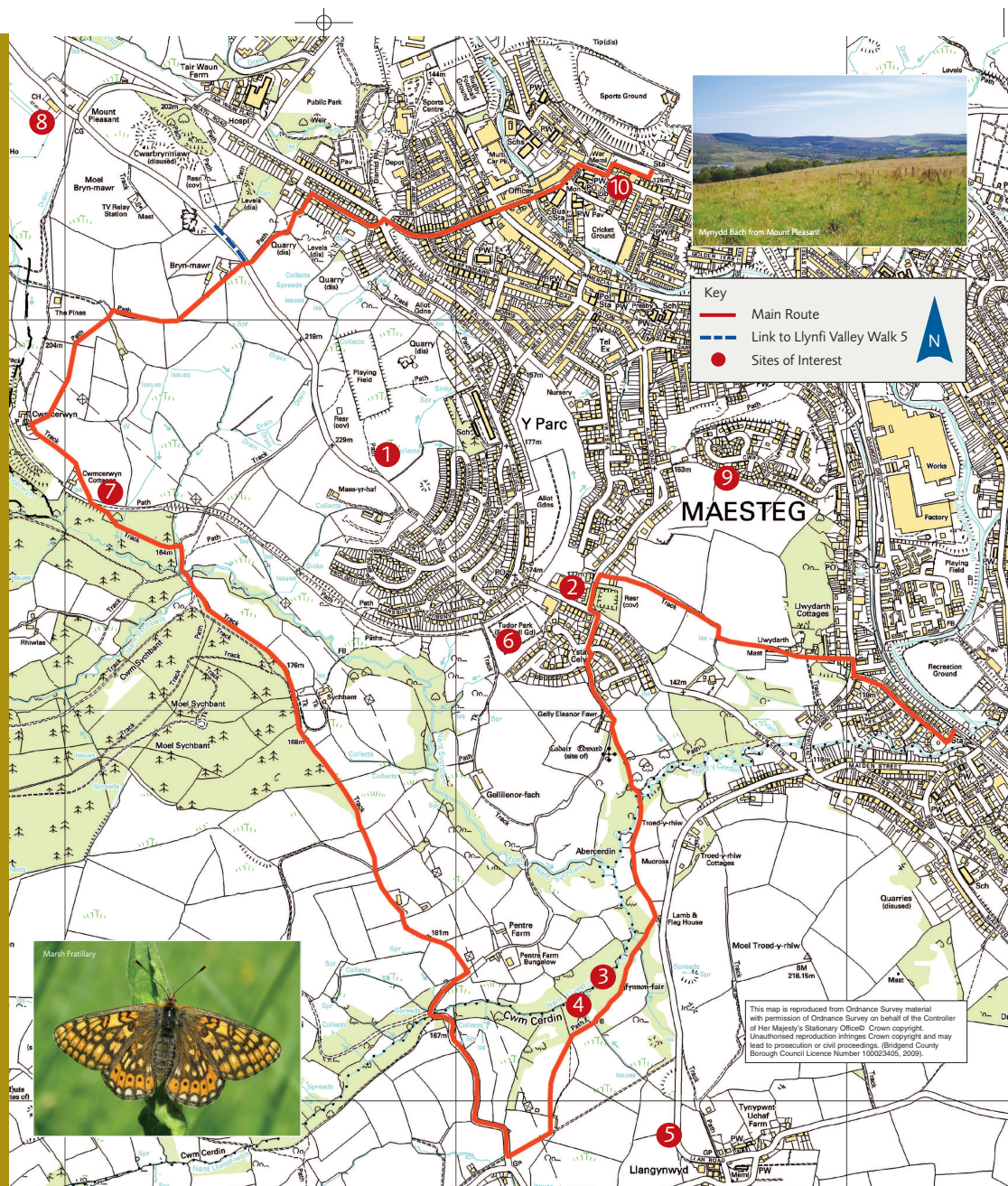
2 Red Cow Public House.

Take the road in front of you which is known as Ystad Celyn. Continuing along the left hand pavement, take the second junction, which is a signed public bridleway. Follow the lane towards Gelli Eleanor Fawr farmhouse.

On reaching the end of the lane, continue along the public footpath, which is signposted. After 10 metres you will reach a fork. Take the left hand fork down a steep, rocky gradient (1:4) to the river.

Cross the stone bridge and continue up the concrete track in front of you. At the top of the hill you will see three wooden posts marking the start of the Brynna, part of the Coed Cadw Woodland Trust site, on your right hand side.

3 The Brynna comprises a 7 hectare area of stream-valley broadleaved woodland, together with open bracken and neutral grassland communities on west-facing slopes. Oak, birch, grey willow, alder and ash trees can be seen.



Turn right into the woodland and follow the waymarked public footpath across a small brook. Continue up some wooden steps on your left hand side and over some wooden decking.

At this point the route passes through **4 wet pasture** which is of high conservation interest and is a haven for wildlife. The marsh fritillary butterfly, a local Biodiversity Action Plan species, which is declining nationally, has been sighted here. If you go quietly and slowly through the woodland you may see deer amongst the trees. Also keep a look out for

birds of prey, such as buzzards, in this area.

The route continues over a concrete bridge and across a drainage ditch. Exit the woodland via a kissing gate and follow the footpath through a field, keeping the field boundary on your left. Continue through a metal field gate and into a second field. At this point turn right and follow the access track. Go through the metal field gate at the end of the track.

CHOICE! At this point you can turn left and follow the road into the ancient village of Llangynydd. This is also a link to Llynfi Valley Walk 5

5 Llangynydd is home to the ancient thatched inn Yr Hen Dy (the Old Inn House) reputed to be the oldest inn in South Wales. The village is also the birth place of the bard Will Hopcyn, whose love affair with local maiden Ann Thomas is the basis of the Welsh legend The Maid of Cefn Ydfa. The maid is buried in the Chancel of the local church and Will Hopcyn is buried in the churchyard. Recent research by Lampeter University also suggests that King Arthur may have moved his court from Camelot to Llangynydd Castle during the Saxon invasion of Wales and that the village may be the site of his death in battle.