

Up to 11 km (7 miles) 4 to 4 1/2 hours




WALK 3

LYNFI VALLEY

On reaching the next junction turn left, then continue along the forest track ignoring all junctions to your left and right. You are now on the track known as Heol y Mwch.

5 Heol y Mwch. Translated means road of the pig and is thought to be over 7000 years old.

As you continue along the road, you will see **6 The Memorial Stone.** This commemorates, W. H. (Billy) Vaughan, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., of Croeswen Canal, Taibach, Port Talbot, 1894-1959. Forestry Commissioner 1947-1959. He is remembered as he devoted his life to the forest and to the welfare of others.



Heol y Mwch

Continue straight ahead along the track gradually climbing uphill.

As the track levels out you will see on your left a small pond and the Bodvoc stone. The small spring nearby is the source of the Afon Cynffig or Kenfig River, which flows into the Bristol Channel at Kenfig National Nature Reserve.



Y Bwlwarcâu

7 The Bodvoc stone. The Bodvoc stone originally stood on one of a line of Bronze Age cairns on Margam Mountain, and has now been replaced with a replica. The inscription on the side of the stone reads "BODVOCI HIC IACIT FILIVS CATOTIGIRNI PRONEPUS ETERNALI VEDOMAVI" which translates as 'The stone of Bodvoc. Here he lays, son of Cattegerm, and great-grandson of Eternalis Vedomavus'. Eternalis was believed to be a local ruler. The original stone can now be seen in the Margam Stones Museum and has been dated to around 550 AD.

VIEWPOINT! Views can be seen across to Swansea Bay and Mumbles. On a clear day Newport to the east and the Gower to the west can be seen.

From the Bodvoc stone continue on the forestry track for a further 80 metres where you will reach a waymark post. Leave the forestry track and take the well defined path through the trees. The path will then reach a boundary fence and the forest edge. Continue ahead keeping between the boundary fence and the forest edge you will reach a stile in the fence line on your left.

Public Transport

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



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



Countryside Code
RESPECT PROTECT ENJOY

8 Y Bwlwarcâu. As you cross the field you may be able to see the rings and depressions on the ground of an old Iron Age Fort. The fort measured 17 acres and is thought to have been in continual use from the Iron Age. The fort was thought to have been altered in the Middle Ages and like other forts in the area was probably used for defensive purposes and containing livestock.

Cross the field in the direction of the waymark to another stile in the opposite fence line from where you have just come from. Climb over the stile to exit onto a rough forestry track on a bend. On the bend look to your left for another waymarked stile which directs you up a slight incline through a field system with 2 stiles and way marker posts guiding you through.

Exit the field system over a stile and onto an access track road, then on through a gate to the tarmac road. Follow this road ignoring all junctions on the left and right until you reach a white house. At this point bear right and continue up the hill to the hilltop village of Llangynwyd.

You are now in the historic village of Llangynwyd which has a Norman church and what is believed to be the oldest public house in Wales.



Llangynwyd Village

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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, Morren House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (Telephone **01656 642553** or **01656 642593**) or by e-mail at rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk



Mynydd Bach from Margam Mountain

OS Explorer Map 166 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil. It should be easy to follow the route using the map and instructions inside this leaflet. When walking the route try and look out for the Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional way marks with arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public right of way. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 166 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil.

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

Advice and Information

To continue the walk leave the village past the monument and the church taking care in the narrow lane. At the T junction by the graveyard of the church turn right and head down the hill. On the left hand side after 400 metres look for a kissing gate in the hedge with a public right of way sign.



Views over Cwmfelin

Pass through the gate and turn right. Follow the hedge line to the field corner and a stile. Climb over the stile and head towards the bottom left hand corner of the field and exit through a field gate onto the Maesteg road. Cross the road and turn left heading towards Cwmfelin School. Continue along the road and at the Y junction bear right keeping to the footpath into Mill Street and onto Garth Station.



The Llynfi Valley

Llynfi Valley Walk 3

Up to 11km (7 miles) 4 to 4 1/2 Hours

This leaflet describes a walk from Maesteg Station to Garth Station through the Llynfi Valley countryside and requires you to make your own way back to your starting point. The route is approximately 11km (7 miles). The walk should take approximately 4 to 4 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 Maesteg Station as the starting point. You could, however, equally start from Garth 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 Walks 1 - 4 from Maesteg Station.

1 Maesteg was historically part of Glamorgan and the town was built on its 19th and 20th century legacy stemming from iron production and coal mining. At the height of its industrial importance there were six collieries operating in the town with numerous related coal mining industries located in Maesteg.

Leave Maesteg Station. Turn right onto Castle Street and then left onto Talbot Street. Continue along Talbot Street, passing the Town Hall and Council Chambers, to the junction with Llynfi Road.

2 Maesteg Council Chambers. The Maesteg Urban District Council was established in 1884, but their building dates from 1914. The District was absorbed into the larger Authority of Mid Glamorgan in 1974, with the council chamber now used for Town council meetings. Take a look up at the facings on the upper levels.

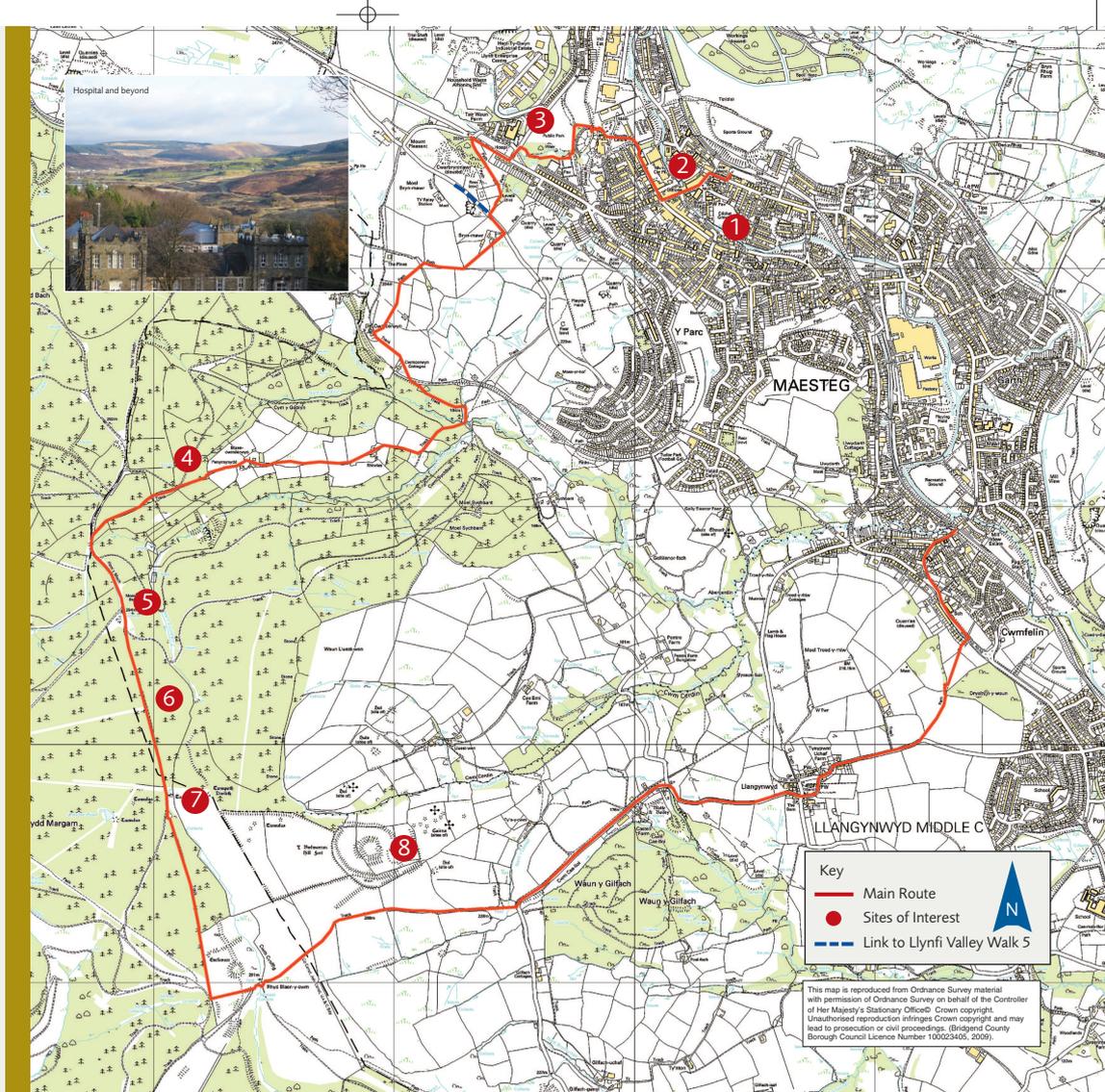
Turn right on to Llynfi Road and follow the road to Maesteg Sports Centre. Pass in front of the sports centre and follow the pavement to the concrete steps on the left hand side. These steps will lead you to Maesteg Welfare Park. At the top of the steps turn right. Follow the left hand path through the park and turn right at the next junction near to the tennis courts exiting out onto Heol Ty Gwyn. Maesteg hospital will now be in front of you.



Maesteg Hospital

3 Maesteg Hospital Maesteg General Hospital opened during the First World War with the purpose of accommodating convalescent wounded servicemen. After the war it continued as a general hospital and maternity home. It was funded by local subscriptions, in particular by deductions taken from the wages of local miners. The National Health Service took over the running of the hospital in 1948

Cross the road and turn left and head towards Maesteg Road. Cross the road and turn right and continue up the hill. After 150 m you will reach a sign posted footpath on your left.



Follow the way mark direction to enter a wooded area following the well defined path to arrive at a stone boundary wall. At the wall bear right and continue to follow the defined path uphill to the old parish road also known as Kier Hardie Road.

VIEWPOINT! From the field, views may be seen across Maesteg Town.

CHOICE! To continue on this walk turn Left. Alternatively, turn right along the old parish road to link into the Llynfi Valley Walk 5.

Turn left and follow the tarmac road until reaching the entrance to Bryn Mawr Farm on your right

Climb over the stile and follow the direction of the waymark arrows. As you pass the farm on your right you will see another stile at the field boundary. Continue to follow the well defined path where you will cross a further 4 metal stiles.

At the last stile leave the defined track crossing into the field heading towards the field gate at the bottom right hand side of the field. Pass through



Views over Bryn Mawr

the gate keeping the field boundary on your right. You will then reach a waymarked gate in the boundary fence. Go through the gate and now the field boundary will be on your left. Continue onto the metal stile in front of you. Climb over the stile and turn right to exit through a field gate onto Brynmawr road. Cwm Cerwyn farm will now be in front of you.

Turn left and follow the tarmac lane passing Cwm Cerwyn cottages on your right. Continue along to

the signed bridleway ahead. At the end of the bridleway you will reach a 'T' junction on a tarmac road. Turn right heading towards Nant Sychbant.

On reaching a low bridge spanning the Nant, leave the tarmac road turning right uphill through a wooded area. As the path climbs uphill you will pass a house on your left. Continue on the well defined rough track through some farm buildings bearing right to enter a green lane heading towards the forestry plantation.

At the boundary of the forestry plantation you will reach a gate and stile. Climb the stile and follow the forestry track until you reach a waymarked post and signs for the Coed Morgannwg Way.

Follow the directional arrows for the Coed Morgannwg way until the next junction.

4 The Coed Morgannwg Way is a long distance path (36 miles) running from Margam Park to Dare Valley Country Park. It uses ancient Celtic Tracks and passes close to a number of Bronze and Iron Age settlements.