

SouthCornellywalk

Introduction

This leaflet describes a circular walk starting and ending in South Cornelly. Alternatively you can start the route in North Cornelly from Heol y Sheet or Porthcawl Road. It is approximately 5km (3 miles). The walk should take approximately 2½ hours to complete but allow a bit more time to enjoy the views of the countryside and coast. The route uses a combination of maintainable highway and public footpaths. The route also passes through the industrial area of Pant Mawr and Cornelly limestone quarries.

Left
South Cornelly village
Below
Three Horseshoes public house



Start the walk anywhere in South Cornelly.

1 South Cornelly village is the "original" Cornelly, and is referred to by that name in a document written prior to the year 1183. Although widely believed locally that the name Cornelly originated from the supposed dedication of the medieval chapel to a Breton saint named Cornelius, this is based on very flimsy evidence. It is far more likely that it developed from the original manor house, home of the De Cornelly family who were lords of the manor of South Cornelly in the 12th and 13th centuries

Take the road known as Lamb Row, passing the Three Horseshoes pub.

2 The Three Horseshoes Public House in South Cornelly was originally known as The Horse and Tram. It is situated alongside the former railway on which it was a popular stopping place.

Continue past the pub and follow the public footpath that bears to the right, along Railway Terrace. Rock Cottages will be on your left hand side. Continue along the footpath which has a tarmaced surface for 100 metres.

3 This section of route follows the rail-bed of the Dyffryn Llynfi and Porthcawl Railway, a horse-drawn railroad built in 1825 – 29. Iron and coal from the Llynfi Valley was hauled to a new harbour built at Porthcawl and on the return journey was loaded with lime produced by the quarries at South Cornelly. Subsequently taken over by the Great Western Railway and converted to use by steam trains, it was finally closed in the 1960s.

Continue along Railway Terrace. At the end of Railway Terrace you will see another footpath sign. You will go across a grassed surface for 10 metres to an A-frame barrier. Go through the A-frame barrier and along the gravel path up a slight incline. The path then levels out.

VIEWPOINT! The path then goes up a steep incline. At point X at the top of the slope you can see views across Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel on a clear day. Sker House on the coastline, the dunes at Kenfig NNR and The Rest at Rest Bay can also be seen.

Continue along the path. You will pass between Pant Mawr Quarry and Cornelly Quarry.

4 Cornelly Quarry is the largest producer of high quality limestone in South Wales. It is especially important because it supplied the Port Talbot steelworks with sinter (ground limestone) which acts as a flux in the steel making process. Present ecological surveys indicate the fringe areas of the quarry are used by a variety of wildlife including brown hare, rabbit, fox, and common lizard. Buzzards, Corvids, Herring Gulls and Lesser-Black Backed Gulls have been viewed in the skies above the quarry on a regular basis. A pair of Stock Doves usually nests in one of the quarries. There is also some ancient woodland present, and there are calcareous grassland areas which support orchids and other plants. The old Pant Mawr quarry, known locally as the 'Blue Lagoon', is so named because the lime particulate laden water reflects the sunlight to give its deep blue appearance.



Key
— Route
- - - Other public footpaths



The public footpath to North Cornelly

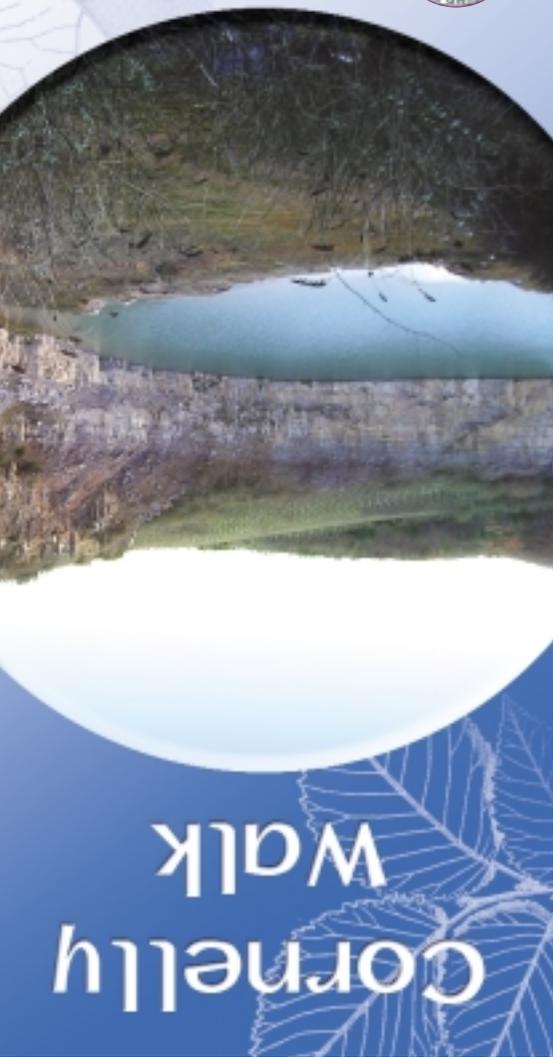


Cornelly quarry

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Route 1



Cornelly Walk

The scarred and pitted landscape of this little dry valley running up into the western slope of Stormy Down is a stark reminder of the former importance of the lime industry in the area. It started in a small way in the middle of the 17th century when coal became more readily available for use as a fuel in limekilns. Groups of two or three men opened small quarries and built kilns on Stormy Down, their production mainly being used as a fertilizer or for making mortar and lime-wash.

Large-scale exploitation of the limestone reserves beneath the common came with the Industrial Revolution which required huge quantities of lime as a flux in the iron furnaces that sprang up at Cefn Cribwyr, Aberkenfig and Maesteg. The demand was continued by their successors at Port Talbot and Briton Ferry resulting in the extensive area of abandoned quarries we see today.

At the green gates turn left, and follow the access road which is also a public footpath. Take care as plant and vehicles use this route. The footpath comes to the end of the access track at a green portacabin **5**. Take the steps at the side of the portacabin and continue round it. You can buy refreshments here.

Continue following the public footpath which is well defined and easy to follow, past the Tarmac site on your right hand side, until it terminates on a junction with a gravel track. Turn left and continue along the gravel track for approximately 75 metres

at which point you will notice a kissing gate ahead of you to the left. Go through the kissing gate and continue across the field. Follow the line of the overhead power cables along the path, which is waymarked, through a further three kissing gates until the path emerges onto Heol y Sheet.

6 Heol y Sheet was severed by the construction of the M4 Motorway. Until the middle of the 15th century it was the main road through the area connecting Cardiff to Kenfig, but it is suspected that it is probably even older and was originally built by the Romans as part of their main highway through South Wales.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Cornelly Community Council
- Barrie Griffiths, Local Historian



ACCOMMODATION

To 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

If you have to use your car there is on street parking at North Cornelly and South Cornelly.

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

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

At the junction with Heol y Sheet, turn left and follow the road for 500 metres, until you get to the bypass kissing gate at Ty Tangelwyst Farm **7**. In its present form the name of this farm lying south of Heol y Sheet means "The House below the Church".

Go through the gate and continue along the concrete access track. Take the public footpath on your right hand side. The path is tarmaced with ranch/motorway style fencing on both sides. Follow this footpath which will take you over a footbridge. Follow the path under the motorway until you come out on the North Cornelly side of Heol y Sheet. Continue down Heol y Sheet until you see a tarmaced link footpath that runs along Heol Y Cwrt. Continue past a small play area on your left hand side. You will come out on the junction of Heol Y Cwrt and Porthcawl Road.

8 You are now in North Cornelly. The first village at North Cornelly was founded by a family called Lupellus (later changed to "Lovell") sometime between 1145 and 1183, and was initially known as Lupelluston. The name "North Cornelly" only came into general use during the early 13th century.

Cornelly Cross lay a short distance to the south-east of this early village and was formerly called Croes y Green. In the 13th century it was the point where the main highway from Cardiff to Kenfig (Heol y Sheet & Heol Las) crossed the road from Nottage to

Margam (B4283) and has continued as an important road junction at the heart of the area through to the present day.

Cross Porthcawl Road and turn left. Walk along the footway under the M4. Continue along the footway. Shortly after passing under the motorway there is a link to Cornelly Walk 2. Continue along the footway for 250 metres until you see a signed public footpath on your right hand side. Take this footpath up a steep incline until its junction with Ty Draw Lane. Turn left. Continue along Ty Draw Lane until its junction with Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly.

You have now returned to your starting point.



Cardiff and Bridgend.

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 642537 or 01656 642593) or by e-mail at [rightssofway@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk)

The going is mainly easy although it may be wet and steep in places. 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