

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




LlyNFI VALLEY WALK 1

VIEWPOINT! At the top of the hill you will have views of the top of the mountains in the Ganw Valley, the Ogwr Ridgeway and of the Gower.

As you near the top of the mountain you will see a stile on your left hand side. The main track turns right at this point. Pass over the stile keeping the field boundary fence on your left. After approximately 200 metres turn left and pass through a bridge gate set in the fence line, heading towards the forestry plantation.



Moel Cynhorby

The boundary fence for the forestry will be on your right hand side. Cross the field moving gradually to your left to reach a way marked field gate. Pass through the field gate heading towards the forestry plantation, keeping the fence and then a stone wall on your left hand side.

VIEWPOINT! At this point if you turn and face the way you have just come you can see all the way to Minehead on a clear day.

At the edge of the forestry plantation you will pass through a way marked field gate to enter the plantation. Continue along the well defined track.

The path will meet a junction with another path. At this junction turn left following the way mark until you reach a 'T' Junction where you turn right.



View of site of St. John Colliery

Follow this track bearing left ignoring three junctions with other tracks on your right hand side. After passing the third junction you will see a way mark post where the track will bear right. Continue on the track for approximately 300 metres from the bend where you will see a way mark post pointing down the hill on your left in between the trees.

At this point leave the forest track and follow the path through the trees until you reach a rough track. Cross the track to follow the path in between the trees looking for a stile in the fence line in front of you. Cross over the stile to leave the forestry plantation.

Follow the well defined path through the fields crossing two more stiles until you reach a rough track. Turn right and follow the track passing through a way marked gateway then turn left as the rough track changes to a tarmac road. On your left the remains of the St Johns Colliery can be seen.

5 St John's Colliery stood on the site of the older Cwm du colliery which was open from 1850 until the seam was exhausted in 1908. In 1908 St John's colliery opened with the sinking of two shafts to extract coal from deeper seams. St. John's closed in November 1985. It was the last deep mine in the Llynfi Valley area.

After passing the old colliery site continue along the tarmac road first passing over a cattle grid then continuing straight ahead at the junction where another road branches off to the left. Just after the junction you will see a sign posted footpath and a metal stile on your left.

Cross the stile and follow the well defined path diagonally across the field until you reach a drainage channel bridged with wooden planks.



Views over to Llangrmyd from Garth Hill

Continue along the path where you will find another drainage channel and a metal stile in front of you. Climb over the stile and enter into a small copse where you will see another metal stile 50 metres in front of you. Climb over the stile and head towards the cemetery keeping the boundary wall of the cemetery on your right hand side. At the corner of the boundary wall continue ahead following the well defined path heading towards the cemetery maintenance buildings and rough access track.

Follow the track to a kissing gate which leads onto the car park of Maesteg Cemetery. Cross the car park to exit onto the highway and turn left.

In the distance to your right you will be able to see **6 Maesteg Washery**. Coal, extracted from a number of collieries in the Llynfi Valley was treated at the Maesteg Central Washery before being supplied to the steel and domestic markets. The former washery site is currently being redeveloped for various uses including the new Maesteg Comprehensive School, which was opened on part of the site in 2008.

Turn right at the next road junction following the road downhill to Crown Road passing the Crown Hotel public house on your left. On reaching the next road junction turn right into Castle Street and follow the road passing under a railway bridge. At the traffic lights turn right by Somerfield. Maesteg station is signposted in front of you and you can catch a train to return to Garth station. Alternatively there are links to Llynfi Valley Walks 1, 3, 4 and 5 from this point.



Views over Cwmfelin

Public Transport

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's, Public Transport Section on **01656 642539** or the Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** www.traveline.info



Dyffryn Valley

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

Acknowledgements

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

- Roy Meredith
- Barrie Evans

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, Portcawl (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

- On-street parking in Garth
- Maesteg train station

There is parking provision at the following:

Car Parking

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, Morfen House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (Telephone **01656 642533** or **01656 642593**) or by e-mail at rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk

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.



Model Cynhorby

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

Llynfi Valley Walk 1

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 2 from Garth Station.

1 The Llynfi Valley. The Llynfi valley is named after the River Llynfi which runs along the valley and literally means 'smooth stream'. The source of the River Llynfi is on Caerau Mountain and runs down through the valley, joining the River Ogmore four miles from Bridgend. The Llynfi valley is surrounded by green hills and in Garth there is a wooded valley, The Darren, with a picturesque viaduct, which once carried the Port Talbot Railway line across the Cwmdy valley.

Leave Garth Station by the exit leading to Mill Street. Continue along Mill Street heading north towards Maesteg under the railway bridge. Take the third turning on the right at the Garth Inn. After approximately 25 Metres you will reach a fork in the road. Take the left hand fork and continue up the lane.

At the end of the lane climb over a stile and continue straight ahead over a small brook. Continue up the hill following a series of 3 way marker posts. When you reach the final way marker post turn right and follow the ridge for approximately 300 metres.

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

The path will then descend down to the right. You will see another way marker post. Take the track to your right. You will come to a fork. Take the track to your right which goes down the hill. You will then come to a stile. Climb over the stile and continue to follow the well defined path to the right that follows the line of the telegraph poles.

You will then reach a second stile climb over the stile and follow the defined path through the scrub. After approximately 30 metres you will join another track. Turn right and follow this track down an incline until you reach a dismantled railway which is now a tarmac access road and public footpath.

Turn left and follow this track until you pass Coedy Garth house on your right. Ahead of you will be a field gate. Go through the gate and over a stile at



Viaduct

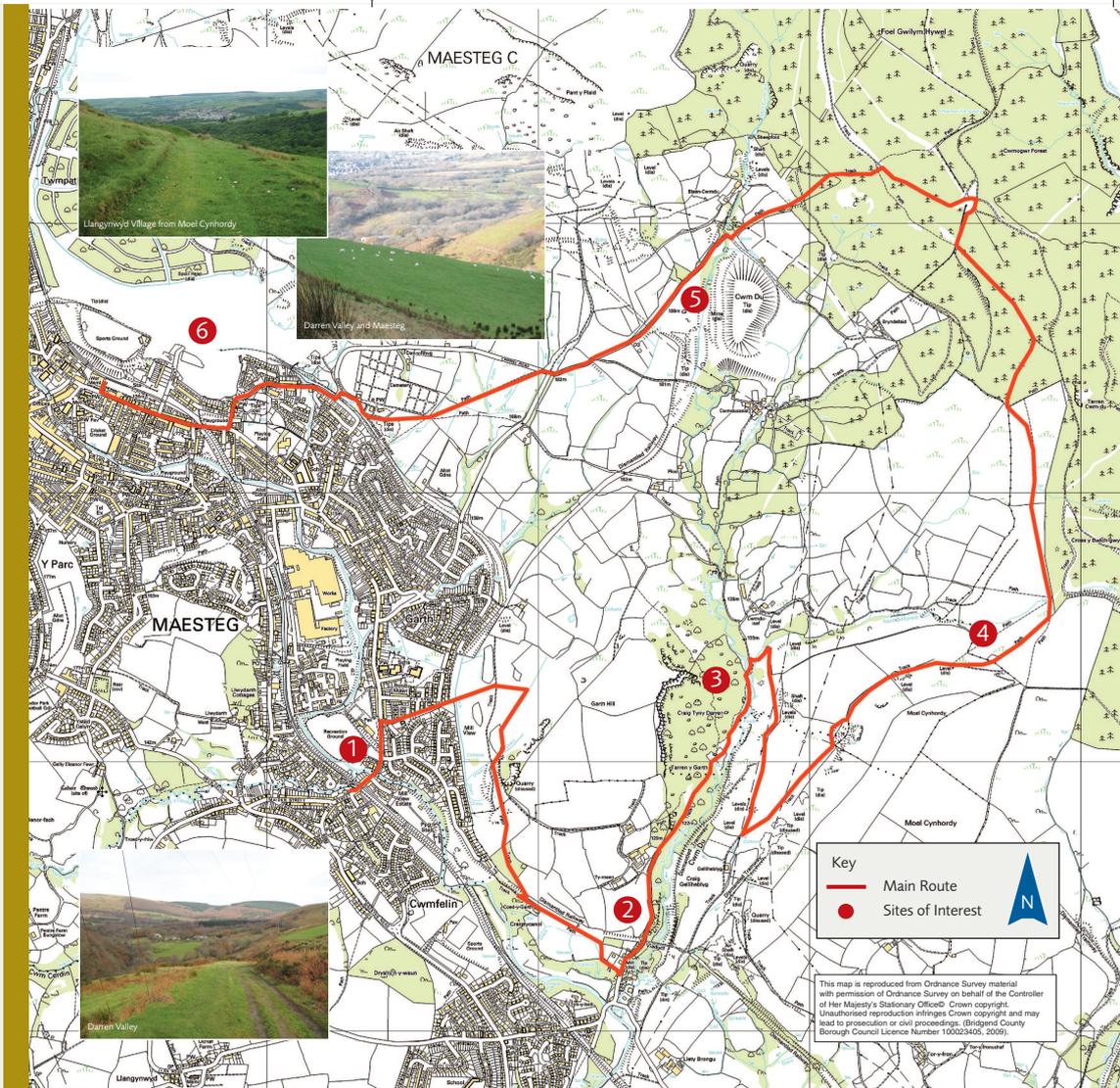
the next field boundary heading in the direction of the houses in front of you. Just before you reach the houses bear right down a green lane and you will then exit on to another tarmac track. Bear left following the track. You will then pass over a stile adjacent to a gate. Continue down the lane until the junction with Station road where you will see a way mark.

Turn left on to the road, passing the houses on your right and under an old brick viaduct, keeping the river on your right.

2 The Viaduct formed part of the Port Talbot Railway which transported coal mined from the Llynfi Valley through to the Docks at Port Talbot for shipment. It was opened in 1898. This section of the line ran its last passenger service in 1934 and finally closed in 1984.

Continue up this lane to a hair-pin bend. Take the track leading off to the right which is a way marked bridleway and the wooded entrance to the Darren Valley. You will see a stile on your left hand side in the fence line after 300 metres.

MAESTEG C



Key

- Main Route
- Sites of Interest

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3 The Darren Valley comprises a 20 hectare area of stream-valley broadleaved woodland. Oak, birch, grey willow, alder and ash trees can be seen and herons can be spotted fishing the Nant Cwm Du.

Follow the path through the wood which runs parallel to a rough road until you reach a second stile. Go over the stile and turn left heading along the track. Pass over a small bridge adjacent to a ford and continue until you meet a way marked T-junction. Turn right and continue along the track which rounds a hair pin bend. You will reach a metal field gate with a small pedestrian gate to the right hand side. Pass through the pedestrian gate and continue along the track.

VIEWPOINT! To your right, views can be seen of the Darren Valley.

As you pass along the track you will pass two metal gates set in the fence line to your left. At the third metal gate turn left on to a track heading up the mountain.

Continue along the rough track up the mountain



Darren Valley Woods

known as Moel Cynhordy. You will pass the remains of some old mine workings and through a second gate way.

4 Moel Cynhordy is believed to be the site of a flying accident on the 29th September 1942 when a Royal Canadian Air Force Spitfire crashed into the mountain during a training exercise when the lone pilot became separated from the lead plane.