



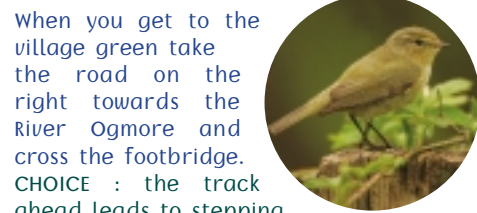
Above: Church of St. Teilo



Left: Cottages at Merthyr Mawr

7 **St. Teilo's Church** 5 dates back to the middle of the 19th Century, and was built on an ancient site. Indeed stones have been found dating from the 5th Century suggesting there was an important Christian cemetery here.

Merthyr Mawr 6 is an idyllic little settlement, as picturesque as they come, with an outstanding collection of thatched dwellings beautifully positioned around an old village green.



Chiffchaff
Photo courtesy of Steven Round

When you get to the village green take the road on the right towards the River Ogmore and cross the footbridge. CHOICE : the track ahead leads to stepping stones across the River Ewenny which will take you straight to **Ogmore Castle** 7 and a well-earned break at the Pelican Inn. You can extend your walk to St. Brides Major from here.

To get to the Castle and the Pelican avoiding the stepping - stones or to continue the circular walk, cross the stone stile on the left after the footbridge. Follow the path towards the bridge over the Ewenny River (to get to the Castle and the Pelican, cross the bridge and



Ogmore Castle



Acknowledgements

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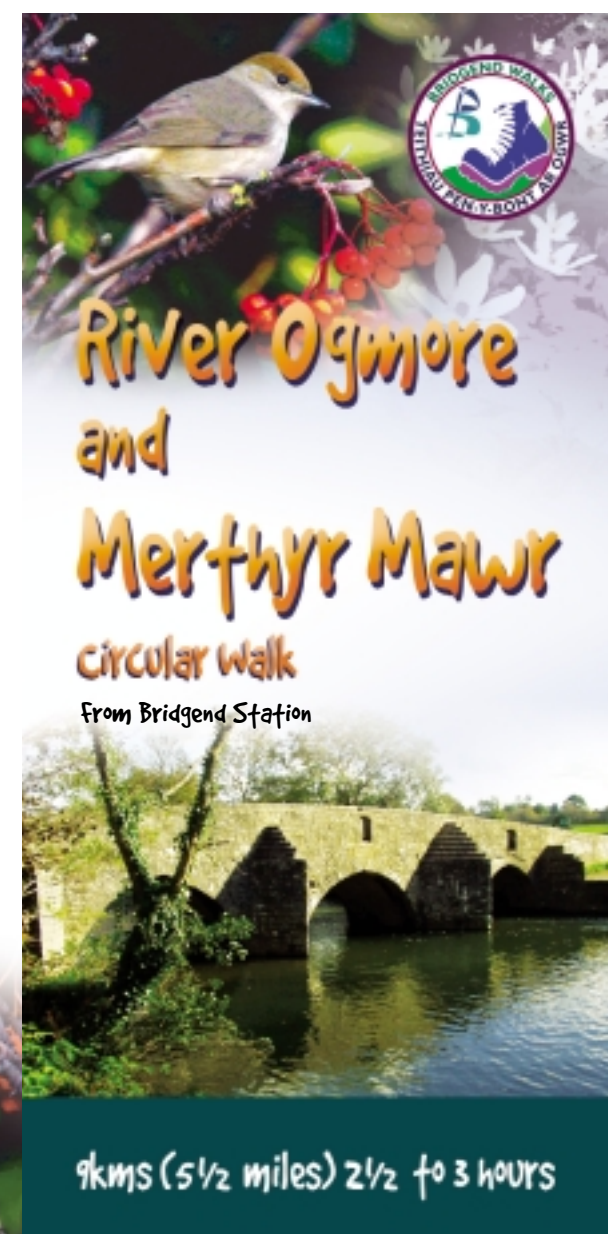
- Merthyr Mawr Community Council
- Bridgend County Borough Council's Tourism unit
- Bridgend Historical Society



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- Howard Maunders www.beautifulbritain.co.uk
- Steven Round www.stevenround-birdphotography.com

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River Ogmore and Merthyr Mawr Circular Walk

From Bridgend Station

9kms (5 1/2 miles) 2 1/2 to 3 hours



turn right at the road). To continue the walk, turn left before the bridge and follow the waymarked public footpath. Just before Verville farm there is an **earth bank** 8 on your left. This is the last vestige of the ancient settlement at Verville.

Continue past Verville Farm along the waymarked path to the road. When you get to the road turn left and continue along the road to a point just before the New Inn Bridge at which point you need to take the footpath on the right.

Follow the path across the field to the A48. Cross with care and go through the gate opposite. Then follow the path keeping the river on your left.

Find the **stone circle** 9. If you go and investigate it you should be able to find out what it was for.

9

Keeping the river on your left continue along the path passing the tennis club on your right hand side along Church Road. Go through the subway where you will come out on Merthyr Mawr Road.



Female Black cap (NB The male has the black cap)
Photo courtesy of Steven Round

Follow the road using the pavement where possible passing the church on your right hand side. When you get to the end of the road turn left - you are now on Nolton Street. Continue along the pavement then cross at the pedestrian crossing and retrace your steps to the railway station.



Green Woodpecker
Photo courtesy of Steven Round

Advice & Information

The going is easy although it may be wet in places. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/ boots and take food and drink with you and be prepared to get fit!

10

Always follow the Countryside Code and take care when crossing main roads especially the A48, as this is a very busy, fast stretch of road. When you are walking on minor roads keep to the right and make use of verges whenever you can. 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 waymarks with yellow arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public footpath. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 151 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, Environmental and Planning Services Directorate, Morien House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (Telephone 01656 642537 or 01656 642516) or by e-mail at rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk

Countryside Code

RESPECT
PROTECT
ENJOY



11

- 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

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.

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 National Bus Enquiry number on 0870 6082608. Information regarding train times can be obtained via National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

Car Parking

There is parking provision at the following:
Bridgend Railway Station,
Bridgend Recreation Centre and Bowls Hall
Parking Area near the swing bridge in Merthyr Mawr Village.
You will also find several other pay and display car parks in Bridgend Town Centre.

Accommodation

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Heritage Coast 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.visitbridgend.com

River Ogmore & Merthyr Mawr

Introduction

This leaflet describes walks up to about 9km (5½ miles) long from Bridgend railway station. On the way you'll pass a riverside nature reserve, the remains of Ogmore Castle and the pretty estate village of Merthyr Mawr. You'll find all the facilities you need in Bridgend.

The longest walk should take you about 2½ to 3 hours but allow a bit more time to enjoy the countryside and attractions. For convenience purposes the directions below are written with the route starting and finishing at Bridgend railway station. You could, however, start from Broadlands or Merthyr Mawr. If you are travelling in the opposite direction simply reverse the directions.



Dipper Photo Courtesy of Steven Round

Directions

Turn left out of the station down Court Road. At the bottom of the hill turn left on to Nolton Street. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and take the first street on your right known as The Rhiw. At the bottom of the hill cross the River Ogmore using the left hand side of the bridge.

Ogmore River 1

Parts of the Ogmore River system once ran black with coal dust. The water is now clean and the river supports a wide variety of wildlife including Grey Wagtail and Dipper.

When you have crossed the bridge turn left and follow the walking and cycling route past Bridgend Recreation and Bowls Centre. A short distance after the Bowls Centre you will see Bridgend's oldest and strangest relic - **The Dancing Stone 2**.

At cock crow on Christmas morning, in common with certain other stones in Celtic regions, this ancient stone dances down to the river to wash.

To continue on the walk proceed along the walking and cycling route over the stone bridge and up the slope. About half way up the slope take the path on your left. This takes you into Craig-y-Parcau Woodland and Local Nature Reserve. Follow this path along the top of the woodland until you come to a gap in the hedge boundary on your right. Bear right and immediately left to join the public footpath. Follow this down to the A48.

CHOICE: If you do not wish to go through the woodland the alternative route is to go through the chicane barrier at the top of the slope on the walking and cycle route and then take the public footpath on your left. If starting from Broadlands this is the point to join the walk. Follow this path all the way to the A48 (keeping the woodland on your left hand side).

Craig-y-Parcau woodland 3

This wood saves lives! Imagine how uncomfortable life would be without food or shelter. Craig y Parcau provides these essentials for all sorts of animals and birds. In season you can hear Song Thrush, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. You may possibly also see and hear Green Woodpecker. In the spring the reserve supports lots of woodland flowers such as bluebell, wood anemone and yellow archangel which would suggest that this area has been woodland for a long time. It's now being run as a Local Nature Reserve to ensure that wildlife continues to thrive here.



Bluebells and Wood Anemones
Photos courtesy of Howard Maunders

To continue the walk, cross the A48 - take care, it's busy - to the footpath opposite. Continue through the woods until you come to a road at which point New Inn Bridge will be on your left.

New Inn Bridge 4 was built in the 15th century. The holes in the parapets are where farmers once pushed reluctant sheep into the River Ogmore for a seasonal dip! At the side of the bridge there once stood an Inn where the landlord known as 'Cap Coch' (Red Cap) would rob and murder travellers en route to St. David's Shrine. (Also look out for Dippers here!)

- Built up areas
- Walk route
- Link to other walks
- Rivers
- Roads
- Railway
- Parking



Not to scale

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CHOICE: to make your way back to the station, cross the bridge and take the next footpath on the left. (pick up the description at 5 below)

To continue the walk, turn right and follow the road and find the stone stile on the left, opposite the entrance to Llanerch Home. Follow the path keeping next to the wall. When you reach the

road, carry straight on down the hill (you will come to a point where you see a footpath sign on your right hand side pointing up a rough track. This is a link into the Bridgend Circular Walk heading towards Laleston). To continue the walk follow the road downhill towards Home Farm. At Home Farm, cross the stone stile on the right and cross a small field. Go over a wooden stile through a small wooded area and over another stone stile to come out on the road.

CHOICE : to extend your walk to Newton (Porthcawl) turn right and follow the road to Candleston Castle.

To continue the circular walk, turn left and follow the road past the church in Merthyr Mawr Village.



New Inn (dipping) bridge, Merthyr Mawr

