

CHOICE: to visit Coity with its magnificent church and castle go straight on along a footpath heading north, cross the stream via a bridge and continue through fields near the riding school to the road. Turn left to get to Coity.



Coity Castle (4) dates from the 12th century and was probably built by Sir Guilbert de Turbeville a descendant of Payn de Turbeville, who was given the lordship of Coity for his part in the conquest of Glamorgan. In 1404 it became 'the most talked-of place in the country' when it was besieged by Owain Glyndwr. At the time it was the only place in South Wales still loyal to King Henry IV.

The Church of St. Mary (5) was built by the year 1325, possibly on the site of an earlier church. You can see some particularly hideous gargoyles on the tower. The church's most celebrated relic is an oak chest with carvings depicting the Passion of Christ.

Retrace your steps or follow the alternative walk shown on the map.

* From the kissing gate turn right, and keep the hedge on your right side. Cross 4 stiles, the first is on the edge of a small wood, the last two are either side of a farm track which leads to small-holding No.7. Follow the way-marked path heading for a large tree, which has a kissing gate alongside it. Continue with the field boundary on your left hand side until you come to another kissing gate. Go through this gate and head downhill towards the field gate in the bottom left hand corner of the field. Go through this field gate turn right and head uphill past the wooded area keeping to the hedge on your right.

(6) As farming activities are going on in this area, please leave field gates as you find them. On this section of route look out for Buzzards hunting over the fields and in the winter this area is also a good place to find winter Thrushes, Redwing and Fieldfare.



Buzzard
Photo Courtesy of Richard Ford

Still with the hedge on your right hand side go through the next field gate and continue straight ahead towards the kissing gate opposite Coedymwstwr Ganol Farm. When you reach the road turn right. The walk continues for 1.5km along the lane heading south towards Shelf passing Home Farm on your right and the entrance to the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel and golf course on your left hand side.



Fieldfare
Photo Courtesy of Ashley Beolens

(7) As farming activities are going on in this area, please leave field gates as you find them. On this section of route look out for Buzzards hunting over the fields and in the winter this area is also a good place to find winter Thrushes, Redwing and Fieldfare.

Still with the hedge on your right hand side go through the next field gate and continue straight ahead towards the kissing gate opposite Coedymwstwr Ganol Farm. When you reach the road turn right. The walk continues for 1.5km along the lane heading south towards Shelf passing Home Farm on your right and the entrance to the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel and golf course on your left hand side.



Acknowledgements

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

- Coity Higher and Coychurch Lower Community Councils.
- Bridgend County Borough Council's Tourism Unit



Thanks also to the following for use of their images:

- Ashley Beolens www.beolens.co.uk
- Richard Ford www.Digitalwildlife.co.uk

Countryside Code

RESPECT PROTECT ENJOY.

- 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.

Turn left at Shelf passing Bryn Cattery on your left and follow the road to the railway line. Cross the railway line with care, then continue straight ahead along Heol y Capel until the White Horse Public House is on your left hand side. You are now back in the village of Coychurch.



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! Always follow the Countryside Code and **take care when using roads and footpaths to cross the railway line.** 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.



Redwing
Photo Courtesy of Ashley Beolens

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

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

Car Parking

If you have to use your car there is on-street parking in the villages of Coychurch and Coity. There is also on street parking in Brackla.

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 of 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

Nant Brynglas Circular Walk

Introduction

This leaflet describes a 3.5km (2½ mile) walk through an attractive area within easy reach of Bridgend, Brackla, Coity, Coychurch and Pencoed. You should be able to complete the walk in 2 hours but allow a bit more time to enjoy the countryside. The villages of Coity and Coychurch have everything you will need by way of facilities. And don't miss the castle in Coity!

For convenience the directions below are written with Coychurch as the starting point but you could equally well start from Coity or Brackla.

The village of Coychurch (1) has a public telephone box, Post Office, village shop /garage and the Prince of Wales and White Horse public houses. The village is perhaps best known for the Reverend Thomas Richards, curate of the parish for more than 40 years, who was responsible for compiling a Welsh to English dictionary first published in 1753. You'll find his grave in the corner of St. Crallo's churchyard.

Before starting the walk you could visit the Church of St.Crallo (2) which was built in the 13th Century and is situated in the heart of the village. It is listed grade 1 as a building of outstanding architectural quality.

To begin the walk find the Prince of Wales Public House and with the pub on your right hand side continue along the pavement until you note a signposted footpath on your right hand side. Follow the path between the houses and continue along Ruthin Close. At the junction with Glenwood Close turn left and continue along the pavement. At the next right turn cross the road and continue straight ahead with house numbers 69 and 70 Glenwood Close on your right hand side. Follow the public footpath which runs between numbers 33 & 34 Glenwood Close. Go through the gate over the railway (take care when crossing the railway) and continue along the public footpath through another two gates then keeping the fence line / boundary on your right hand side follow the waymarked path. You will come to a kissing gate with the road in front of you, cross the road and take the signposted public footpath.



All maps in this series are based upon Ordnance Survey maps.
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Public footpaths like this may have a defined width although you won't always be able to see this on the ground. This one is 1.2m (4 feet) wide. Keep the stream immediately on your left and you'll be on the path. Don't be misled by sheep tracks!

At the end of the first field continue through a kissing gate, keeping the stream on your left. You will note a footbridge on your left hand side, which crosses the Nant Brynglas. The footpath that crosses the bridge leads to Crematorium Wood and Brackla.

Crematorium Wood (3) (also known as Coed Brynglas) is a mixed broad-leaved semi natural woodland dominated by oak and ash. Amongst the ground flora can be found Herb Paris and Yellow Archangel, the latter of which indicates that the woodland is ancient. The wood also supports blue tits, great tits and long-tailed tits, especially in late summer. In the winter small flocks of these birds will roam the woods, especially close to the stream.

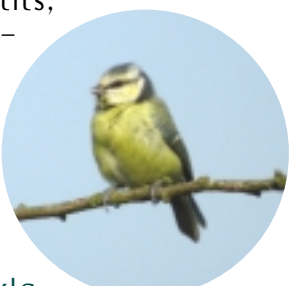
CHOICE: to get to Brackla cross the bridge and follow the path through the

woodland across a small section of a field to the road; to continue on the circular walk, ignore the bridge and follow the path alongside the stream.

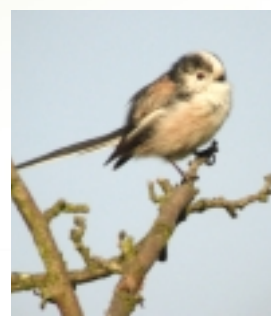
The fields here often contain sheep or other stock. Sheep worrying is a serious matter. You can help by reporting loose dogs or other problems affecting stock to the farmer.

Follow the waymarked route through a kissing gate, over a stile and through a further 2 kissing gates. At this point the property known as Lais House will be on your right hand side. Head for the electricity pole in the next field until you cross the access track to Lais House at which point you should veer to the left and head for the kissing gate in the hedge. Cross over an old farm track and continue through another kissing gate into an open field.

At this point you have a choice. To continue the circular walk go to * on page 5 or to visit Coity use the following directions.



Blue tit
Photo Courtesy of Ashley Beolens



Long-tailed tit
Photo Courtesy of Ashley Beolens

