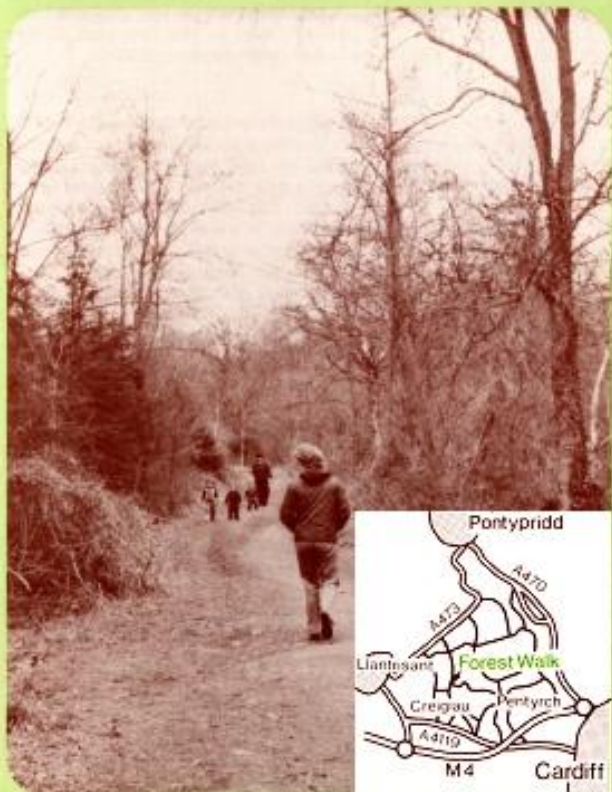


Rhodfa'r goedwig Tŷn-y-coed

Tŷn-y-coed Forest walk



10c



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TŷN-Y-COED FOREST WALK

Tŷn-y-Coed forest walk is a Joint Venture between the Forestry Commission and the Pentyrch Civic Trust.

Introduction

This leaflet describes a 2 mile walk through superb broadleaved and coniferous woodland on the lower slopes of Garth Hill.

The woods lie midway between the villages of Creigiau and Pentyrch in Mid Glamorgan, about 8 miles north-west of Cardiff. The easiest approach from Cardiff is via the A4169 Llantrisant road, turning right at the signpost for Creigiau. Proceed through the village and continue for about half a mile along a winding country lane. A right turn immediately after crossing a railway bridge brings you in a short distance to the car park. The area is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale map, 170 The Rhondda (grid reference 083826).

Tŷn-y-Coed Forest Walk

The walk is waymarked throughout and starts from the car park which is set among mature trees which provide a perfect habitat for a variety of birds. The path leads out of the car park through a young conifer plantation. Follow the path through a gate and through the trees to the right as indicated on the marker posts. After following the winding path for a short distance you reach a gate on to the lane. Before continuing through the gate, look down to your left at a feature of local historical interest—the bricked up entrance to the former South Cambrian, a coal level owned by an American mining company which operated at the turn of the century. It closed down in 1914, due in particular to drainage problems. After rain the entrance is flooded by 6 or 7 feet of water, but in dry weather the old entrance is clearly visible. Local people still remember the appalling working conditions underground here.

Cross the lane bearing right and enter the woods opposite. The wide path follows an old mineral line which linked the quarries which lie ahead with the railway line, now disused, which runs parallel to the track down to the left. The path rises gently for about half a mile through a mixture of mature deciduous trees underplanted with several species of conifer. These, together with the thick undergrowth and climbing plants for example ivy and 'old man's beard', provide the ideal habitat for a great variety of birds, animals and insect life. A variety of wild flowers flourish here in the spring.

The first picnic area is adjacent to the remains of the old quarry weigh-bridge. On the opposite side of the track a little further on is the second picnic area. The former explosives store for the quarry, now offers shelter in bad weather.

The Forest Walk continues on past several old quarry entrances overhung with trees, before opening out into an area of magnificent mature beech trees. Notice how the ground beneath these trees is almost devoid of vegetation, the beech trees reduce sunlight to such an extent that little else can survive beneath them.

The climb to the summit ascends steeply by a wide grassy path through young conifers. Follow the marker up to the left and rest for a few minutes on the bench provided. The view looks back over the wooded landscape towards Llantrisant. The path curves round the hill and on through mixed deciduous woodland, then winds on up the hill through a young conifer plantation before reaching the summit. At the summit there is a view of the Brecon Beacons to the north and the Bristol Channel and Exmoor to the south.

To complete the walk follow the wide path below the logs and rejoin the lower path. From here retrace your footsteps to the car park.



Wild Life

Birds. More than 70 species of bird can be seen in a year. The area attracts 3 resident species of owl, woodpeckers and birds of prey, also 6 species of the tit family. The dawn chorus is swelled by summer visitors which include 6 species of warbler, notably the wood warbler.

Wild Animals. Many types of wild animals live in and around these woods including badgers, foxes, grey squirrels and many smaller mammals.

Flowers. The variety of soil conditions from damp marshland to bare rocky outcrops, from sheltered woodland to exposed hillsides has given rise to a great variety of wild flowers throughout the year. Bluebells, primroses, violets, celandines and wood anemones are common spring flowers in these woods.

Trees. The native species that made up the original forest cover of the British Isles are well represented. They include the oak, beech, birch, ash, alder and willow. The more recently introduced conifers include the Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, western hemlock, western red cedar, grand fir, Corsican pine, lodgepole pine and Japanese larch.

WARNING. THE QUARRIES AND OLD LEVELS IN THESE WOODS MAY BE DANGEROUS IF NOT TREATED WITH RESPECT. FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY KEEP TO THE PATHS.

When visiting any woodland or other country area follow the Country Code.

In particular, please:—

- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Leave no litter.
- Do not disturb wildlife or pick flowers.

— and please do not take your vehicles into the forest.

