

# Circular Walk

## Outdoor Cardiff Pentyrch - Creigiau Circular Walk

Countryside, history and wildlife on your doorstep



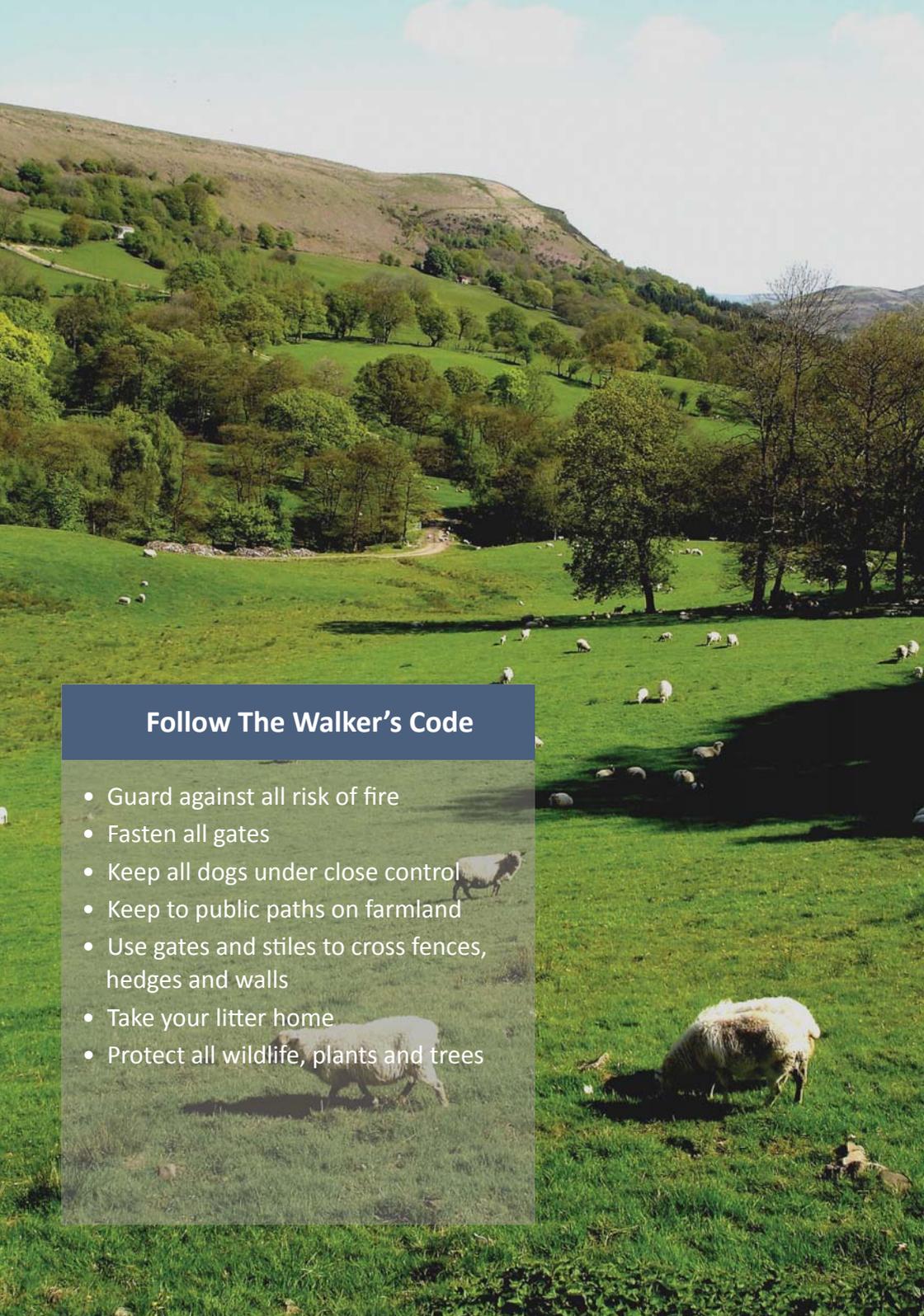
A Proud Capital

Noddir gan  
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Sponsored by  
Welsh Assembly Government



**OUTDOOR** Cardiff  
**AWYR AGORED** Caerdydd

  
Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru  
Countryside Council for Wales



## Follow The Walker's Code

- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep all dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths on farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Take your litter home
- Protect all wildlife, plants and trees



Pant y-Gored Farmhouse  
Ffermdy Pant-y-Gored



Typical walk landscape  
Tirlun nodweddiadol o'r daith

## Parc-y-Justice

The first reference to Parc-y-Justice house dates back to around the 1530s when it held the magistrate court. It was here that financial accounts were brought to be approved by the Justice of Peace and various warrants were signed for the apprehension of wrongdoers.

In 1791, gruesome history was made when Catharine Griffith, a former Parc servant, and her husband, Henry James, were hanged for breaking into Parc-y-Justice and stealing a quantity of silver. About seven years prior to this incident, Catharine, at times with her husband Henry or another accomplice, travelled around the country stealing small amounts of items. This conduct eventually led to their execution. Catharine, at about 31 years of age, was the last woman to be publicly hanged in Wales.

## Creigiau during the Second World War

In July 1942, during the Second World War, bombs fell on Pant-y-Gored Road. A cry went up that the 'Woodlands' house was on fire and by morning it was a smouldering shell. Neighbours tried to salvage furniture from the house while offering their sympathies to the owner, Mrs. Davies. The house, now repaired, still stands on Pant-y-Gored Road.

Despite the six year long conflict, Creigiau was a haven of peace during the war. Families still used the train to go to Barry Island and the steady stream of seaside sun-seekers walking to Creigiau from Pentyrch was a familiar one. The reality of the war was brought home when hospital trains steamed into Creigiau Station. A score of camouflaged ambulances queued to ferry wounded American soldiers in need of treatment to the US Military Hospital set up at Rhydlafer. As the American servicemen settled into the community, they brought with them entertainment, live music and shared their allocations of beer, chocolate and cigarettes with the locals.



**Terrain:** The circular walk includes some steep hills, a wooden stile, kissing gates and some steps. Sections of the walk are also along the highway and there are two roads to cross and care should be taken at these points. Way-markers with red colour banding are posted along the route for walkers to follow.

**Time of Walk:** Between 1 hour and 1<sup>1/2</sup> hours to complete.

**Walk distance:** The entire route is 2.59miles (4.16KM) in length.

### Getting there:

By foot/ cycle – the walk starts and finishes just south of the sports ground on the corner of The Gables and Heol Pant-y-Gored.

By bus – The closest bus stops to the walk are on Heol Pant-y-Gored and Bronllwyn. Route Number 136, details of services can be found at <http://www.traveline-cymru.info/>

By car- limited parking is available at the sports ground off the corner of The Gables and Heol Pant-y-Gored.



View from walk of Pentyrch Village  
Golygfa o'r daith o Bentref Pentyrch



Quarrymen at Creigiau limestone quarry 1933  
Chwarelwyr chwarel galchfaen yn Creigiau 1933

## Industrial Heritage of Pentyrch

### Iron

It was through the Taff Gorge that the bulk of east Glamorgan's industrial output travelled (by road, canal and later rail) to Cardiff and the world beyond, becoming the biggest employer of labour for miles around. The establishment of iron-making in Pentyrch is due to the location of iron ore sited where the River Taff cuts its way through the southern rim of the South Wales coalfield. The early iron makers found that the most effective of the early furnaces were those that were built in frost pockets. This was because the cold air was denser and contained more oxygen which helped the process. Old furnaces discovered there were thought to be from the Elizabethan period, but eventually were identified by industrial archaeologists as dating from the Georgian period, in the 1740s. In 1879 the Pentyrch Iron Works closed down and attempts to form a new company came to nothing so that in 1888 the property was sold off.

### Coal

The New Lan Colliery, opened in Pentyrch in 1872, supplying coal from several seams, including the Black, Forked, Wing Hard and Brass Veins, to the then adjacent Pentyrch Iron Works. The colliery employed about 300 men and boys with two thirds of them working underground. On an early Monday morning in 1875, a big explosion in the Brass Vein of the mine killed 13 men and injured 9 others. The mine continued to operate until World War One when men transferred to work in the newer deep mines in the valleys.

### Woodlands

Craig-y-Parc woodland is an area of semi-natural Beech woodland. Large portions of the ancient woodland have been replanted with new Beech and coniferous specimens (or trees); however, there are still plants indicative of ancient woodland. These include: Wild Garlic (Ramsons), Wood Anemone, Pignut, Yellow Archangel, Dog's Mercury and a beautiful Bluebell carpet in the spring. The woodland is also home to many bird species such as Blackcap, Goldcrest, Treecreeper, Green Woodpecker, Buzzard and Tawny Owl.



Church of St. Catwg  
Eglwys Sant Catwg



View from Garth Hill  
Golygfa o Fynydd y Garth

## Local Interests:

### Parish Church of St. Catwg

St. Catwg, one of the most famous of the Welsh saints, founded a monastic cell in Pentyrch, which was built around a spring known as Ffynnon Catwg (Catwg's Well). This was a holy site around 500 A.D. and there is a medieval base-block in the churchyard and a 12th century font on display behind a glass door at the foot of the steeple.

### Gwaelod-y-Garth Inn

In Victorian and Edwardian times, Gwaelod-y-Garth Inn was a local public house known for its singing and entertainment. When the game of 'Tippit' reached the height of its popularity in the 1930s, the pub's team were the undisputed local champions known for their bluff! Tippit is a game of tactics and skills, like a good poker player, using two opposing teams to guess who has the coin in their hand.

**Garth Hill** has Bronze Age burial mounds built around 2,000 B.C. You will be highly rewarded with the breathtaking panoramic views once you have reached the top of the ridge.

An **enamelled bronze terret**, a loop used for holding the reins of a chariot, was discovered in the Lesser Garth by a quarry worker and is now on display in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

### Boxing Day Walk

A 'Boxing Day Walk' started in 1978 as a casual walk through the local countryside. What started out as a few families and friends has now grown to a few hundred people joining in the event each year! The walk starts from Creigiau Inn and follows a similar path to this circular walk.