

Newtown Circular Walks – No. 1. Ffrydd Farm and Penshwa Lane

This walk starts and ends in the centre of Newtown. It is a mixture of road and off-road walking with some sections muddy after heavy rain. It includes lovely views over Newtown and the surrounding hills. This walk is rated as moderate.

Distance: 4¼ miles.

Timing: 2 hours.

Directions

This walk starts under the Town Clock (1) at the intersection of Broad St, High St and Severn St. The Cross Buildings, now housing Barclays Bank, was erected by Sarah Brisco to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. Sarah Brisco, a descendent of the Pryce family of Newtown Hall, presented the clock to the town in 1900. Opposite the clock on Severn Street is the Robert Owen museum and the Robert Owen memorial rooms are over the HSBC on the other corner. Robert Owen, the founder of the cooperative movement, is one of Newtown's most famous sons.

Walk along Broad St towards Longbridge and cross to Pont Hafren on the north side of the river. Pont Hafren is a lovely old building, now operating as a registered mental health charity, <http://www.ponthafren.org.uk/>. If time permits, you can take a short detour to the right along Commercial Street where you will find the Newtown Textile Museum on your left. The museum celebrates Newtown's pre-eminence in the woollen industry in the 19th century. It is open June to August Mon to Sat (closed Wed) 2-5.

At the roundabout our walk goes straight ahead up Crescent Street, heading for the lovely Victorian terrace, Bryn Gardens, at the top of the hill. On the way up you will pass the slate hung weavers' cottages and if you look back you will get one of the best views of Newtown.

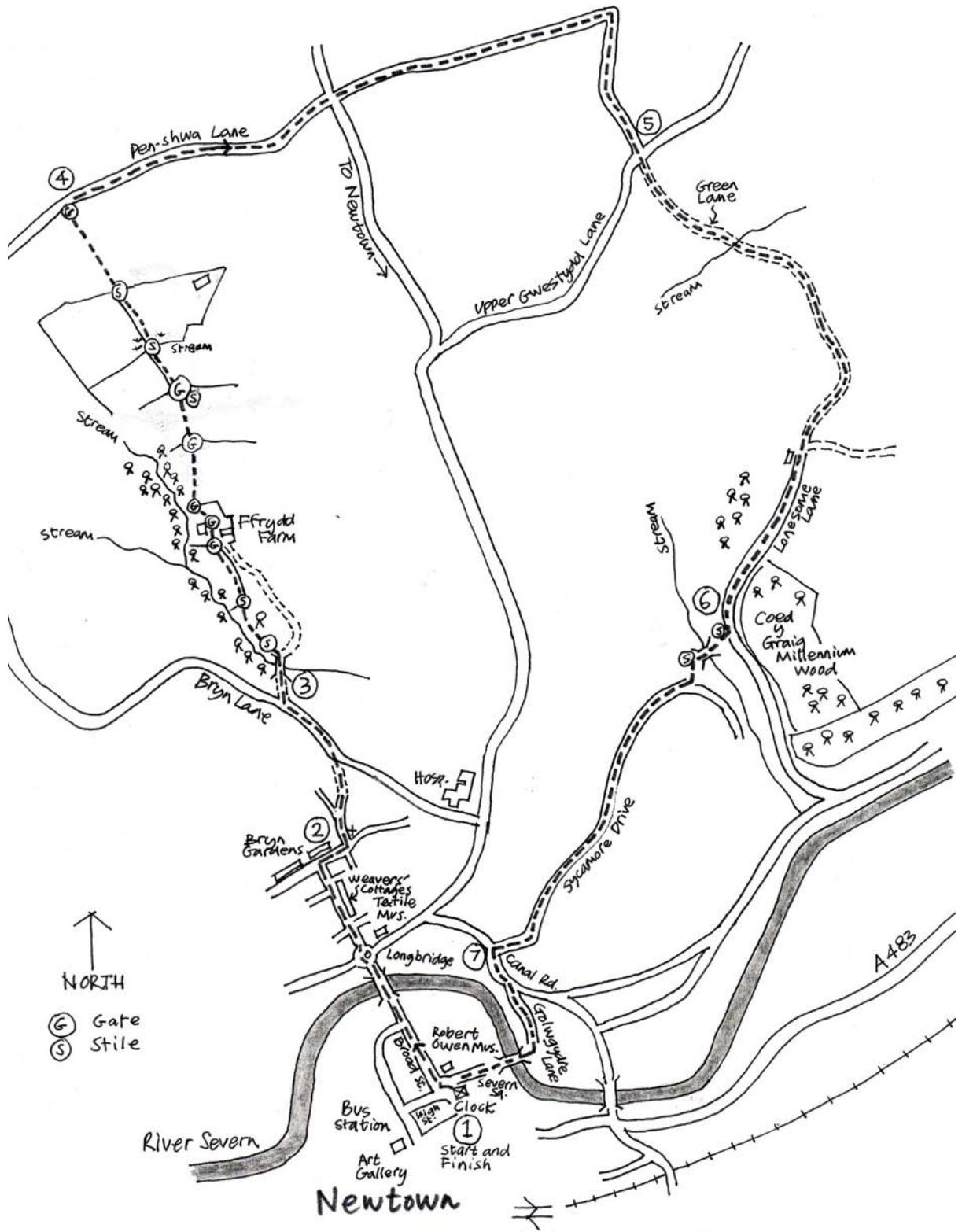
At the top, turn right then first left at the footpath sign. Bear right at the beech hedge (2) following the fence on your right and passing Cynlais bungalow on your left. Follow the paved path up the hill, ignoring the stile and footpath sign on your left. At the road, Bryn Lane, turn left then, after a short distance, turn right at the sign to Ffrydd Farm. Follow the farm lane (not the footpath sign) until you cross the stream then turn immediately left (3) to follow the side of the stream to a stile. This path has mud overlying slate and can be slippery. Cross the high stile and head for the white house ahead, Ffrydd Farm. Pass to the left of the hedge at the stile, then go through the farm gate, cross the farmyard to the left of the house and through a similar gate ahead. Bear left to the left hand corner of the field and go through the gate there.

Follow the fence and stream line on your left and go through the gate in the hedge ahead of you. Keep going straight over the hill (more magnificent views all around at the brow of the hill) to the gate and stile ahead. Follow the hedge on your left down to the stile and stream at the bottom. Cross the stile and skirt the stream, continuing up the hill to the right of the hedge. Cross the slightly rickety stile and head uphill to the gate in the hedge to the right of the bungalow. This gate is tied up but easily opened. This will bring you out onto Penshwa

Lane (4). Turn right and follow it until you reach the cross roads at the Newtown to Tregynon road. Cross this busy road and continue straight ahead. This road will lead you around a sharp right hand bend and on to a T junction (5) at Upper Gwestydd Road with a green lane ahead. Cross straight over to the green lane and follow it over a stream or two and up until it turns into the paved Lonesome Lane. Continue on the lane.

A little way down the hill you will pass Coed y Graig (also known as Millenium Wood) on your left. If you have the time, the wood is worth a detour. The circular walk around the wood gives excellent views of Newtown and the surrounding hills. There are benches for picnics and the mixed broadleaved trees provide interest all year round for flowers, fruit and nuts. Forage in season for apples, crabapples, cherries, hazelnuts, sloes, elderflowers or berries, haws, etc. You can get information about this wood and the Woodland Trust at www.coed-cadw.org.uk.

Continue straight down Lonesome Lane to the first stile in the hedge on your right (6). Cross into the field and head straight down the hill. At the bottom of the hill there is another footpath sign that leads you to a footbridge over the stream. The path leading down to the footbridge can be slippery when wet. Take the path up the opposite bank to the footpath sign and follow the fence around the property on your left. This leads to a stile that takes you to a path between a hedge and fence and brings you out to a short dead end leading to Sycamore Drive. Turn right on Sycamore Drive and follow it downhill. There are some lovely views ahead to Tre Owen and the hills beyond, and to the Bryn Bank off to your right. At the bottom you come to a T junction where you meet Canal Road (7). When you reach Canal Road, turn left and cross the road. Take the small lane, Golwgydre Lane, on your right which will bring you to the footbridge, Halfpenny Bridge, over the Severn. Cross the river and keep ahead, over Severn Square and along Severn Street to return to the starting point at the clock.



Walk No 1. Ffrydd Farm and Pen-shwa Lane.