

Newtown Circular Walks – No. 4. Neuadd Hendidley Farm

This walk starts and ends in the centre of Newtown. It is a mixture of road and off-road walking with a couple of streams needing to be crossed with care after very heavy rain. This walk is rated as moderate.

Distance: 5 km, just over 3 miles.

Timing: 1½ hours.

Directions

This walk starts under the Town Clock 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/>. At the roundabout turn left at the church, now the Crescent Christian Centre and walk along Milford Rd. Along the way you will pass Plas Dolerw (the former home of Pryce Pryce-Jones, the man who brought the world mail-order shopping) at the entrance to Dolerw Park and further along you pass the old Friends Meeting House. The walls along the road at the beginning of the walk contain decorative panels of over-fired bricks as features. Look out also for the dragon on the ridge of Mayfield Lodge on your right. This former Lodge Cottage also contains fine examples of decorative tiled brickwork. After about one fifth of a mile from the roundabout you will see a road, named Milford Common rising at an angle to the right. Walk up this road taking the centre road at a junction with the house Hillside on your left. At the top of the hill you will see the drive to a house called Melrose. Go up this drive. To the left of the house you will see a 2 bar wooden fence. Go over this fence into the field and open countryside beyond.

Cross this field bearing right of the left hand fence and down to the stream ahead of you. Cross this stream at any convenient spot and climb the hill on the other side and go through the gate to the right of the hedge. Proceed straight along the next field following the fenced hedge on your left. This brings you to Neuadd Hendidley Farm (called Nyodd Hendidley Farm on the OS map) on your left. Pass the farm buildings and go through the second gate into the farmyard. There may be a dog or two here but they (and the farmer) are friendly. Head towards the old red brick barn and pass through another gate on the right down a short drive to the road. This is Beehive Lane. Turn left down the hill.

After a short distance you will pass a couple of houses, drives and lane on your right. One of these is Beehive Cottage. Just past the house there is an obvious stile with fingerpost up a bank on your left. Go over the stile and keep ahead across the field and down to another stream. Go through a pedestrian gate on the river bank, cross the stream and follow the fence

on your right till you reach an obvious track at the top. Follow this track through the small beech wood, through the next field and another pedestrian gate in the hedge ahead. Head down the hill bearing right and aiming for a black and white cottage on the road below. Cross the stile to the right of the cottage to get to the road. Turn left on the road heading back to Newtown, eventually passing the Milford Common road on your left. A little further along turn right down the road Dolerw Park Drive into a new housing estate. The sign for this road is only readable once you have passed it. Go straight down Dolerw Park Drive and enter Dolerw Park via a metal gate between two houses. The Park formed the grounds of Plas Dolerw, the former home of the Pryce-Jones family.

Follow the obvious paved path that will bring you to the footbridge over the river Severn. Cross this and carry on ahead aiming for the single storey, multi-coloured building which houses the art gallery, Oriel Davies, <http://www.oriel Davies.org/>. The red bricked building with the white columns ahead is the old Town Hall, now County Council offices. Turn left toward the front of Oriel Davies. This free gallery commemorates the Davies sisters who were patrons of the arts and hosts world-class art exhibitions. It also makes a good place to stop for a coffee and a browse in the bookshop and is open Mon – Sat 10 - 5. Pass the gallery, cross the road (Back Lane) ahead and walk down High Street to the end of the walk at the Town Clock.

**Walk 4.
Nevadd
Hendidley
Farm**

Draft/2



- (F) = Fence
- (S) = Style
- (G) = Gate

