

Newtown Circular Walks – No. 5. Coed y Graig

This is a pub based walk that starts and finishes at the Waggon and Horses in Lower Canal Road. It includes a walk around Coed y Graig (also known as Millennium Wood) which is a small Woodland Trust wood open to the public. This walk is rated as easy, much of it is on quiet roads with some off road walking.

Distance: Short option – 1.8 miles plus walk around the small woodland
 Longer option – 2.3 miles plus walk around the small woodland
Timing: 1 to 1¼ hours for the longer option, plus time to walk around the wood

Directions

Cars can be parked near the pub either on Lower Canal Road or Dolafon Road, the Waggon and Horses is on the corner at the intersection of these two roads.

Walk down Dolafon Road and go through the gap in the hedge at the bottom of the road. (If this path is muddy, there is an entrance to an optional paved path on the right further along Dolafon Road.) In either case, climb the low flood protection bank and turn left to walk along the top of it. The path drops down to a gate. Go through and follow the paved path under a pipe bridge, past the ‘Old Pump House’ on your right. The Pump House took water from the Severn to supply the head of the canal. It was originally operated by a water wheel, later by steam and eventually by a diesel engine. It ceased operation in the 1940s. Just after the next gate turn left up some rustic steps and back on to Lower Canal Road. Across the road, slightly to the left is the delightfully named ‘Lonesome Lane’. (Do not go up the adjacent road, Tan y Graig.) At the bottom of Lonesome Lane is a footpath sign saying ‘Woodland Walk 400m’. Walk up the lane, passing 2 footpath signs at stiles on your left (you will return to the second one after walking around the wood). The Woodland Walk – Coed y Graig is on your right 250 m further on. A map and information board just inside the entrance shows the trails but you can stroll anywhere. 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.

Leaving the wood, retrace your steps down Lonesome Lane until you reach the first footpath sign on your right, which reads ‘Woodland Walk 250m’. Cross the stile 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. When you reach Canal Road, there are two options to complete this walk.

Option A, short way back to the pub.

Turn left on Canal Road and continue to follow it as it turns to the left just past the second zebra crossing. Pass the Meeting Hall on your right to a road sign reading 'Cae Cymric', also on your right, next to steps leading down to the houses. Go down the steps, follow the path as it turns right and then left, along the open green space, and back to Lower Canal Road. The Waggon is across the road on the left.

Option B, slightly longer.

At the junction of Sycamore Drive and Canal Road, cross Canal road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right, passing the Powys Theatr on your right. Canal Road turns into Commercial St and if time permits, you can take a short detour straight along Commercial Street to the Newtown Textile Museum on your right. 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.

If you opt for the direct route, turn left into Frankwell Street. This street contains some old weavers' cottages and leads you to steps that take you up on to Longbridge. Cross the Severn using this bridge and turn left at the Elephant and Castle, opposite the old woollen exchange, now called the Regent Cinema. Follow the upper path parallel to the river, passing the ruin of St Mary's church on your right.

This church was built of stone from the river bed and consisted of a double aisle surmounted by a wooden belfry at the North West angle. It has been dated to the 13th century. Due to frequent flooding the church fell into disrepair and was eventually abandoned in 1856. In the body of the church stands a mausoleum erected in 1900 over the tomb of the Pryce family of Newtown Hall who were the descendants of the mediaeval lords of the manor of Cedewain. Alongside the South wall stands the Tomb of Robert Owen (1771-1858), the social reformer and educationist, a native of the town.

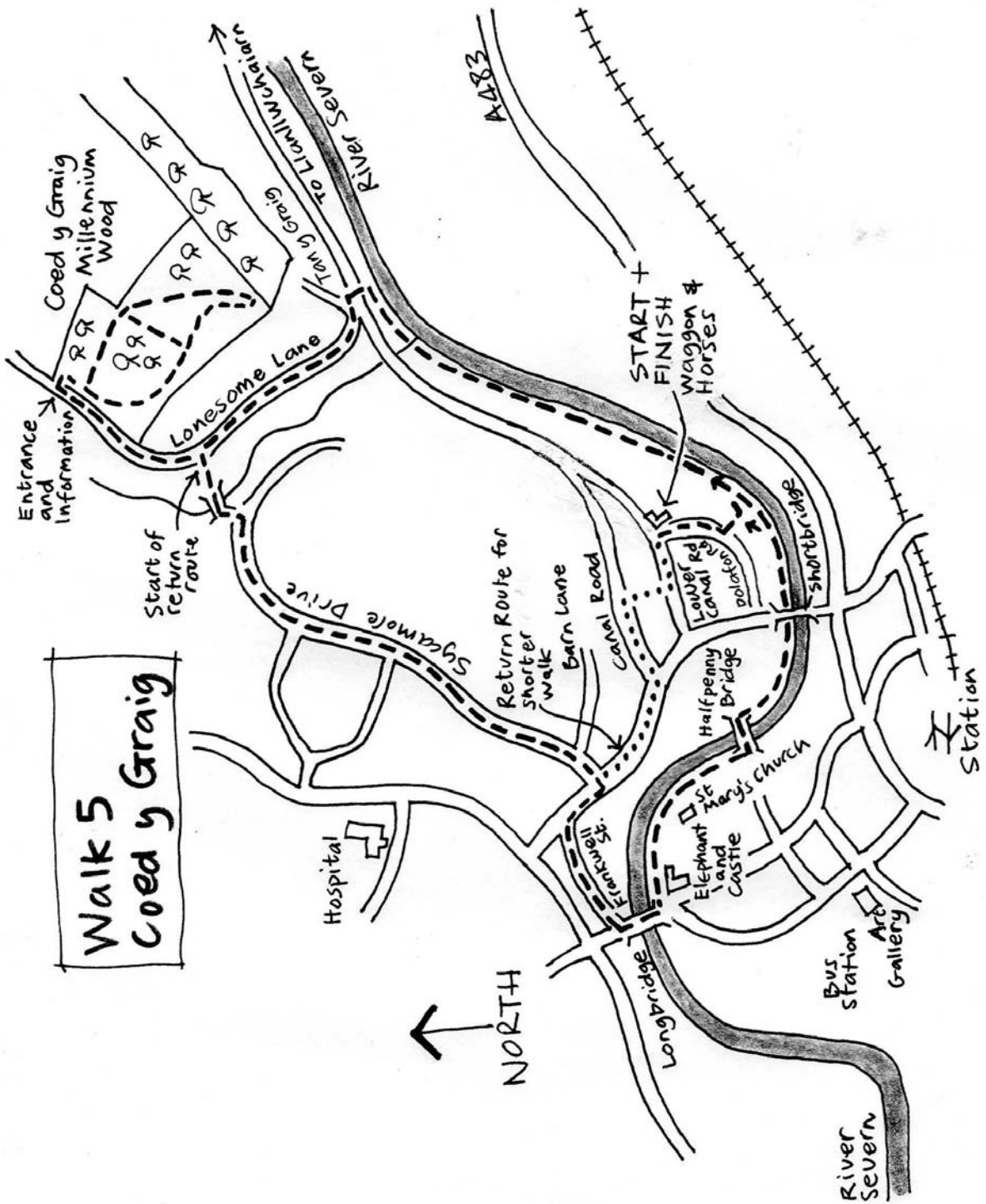
The path leads to steps on to the Halfpenny footbridge which replaces the original toll bridge that stood some 40m upstream and was regularly swept away by the River Severn. Cross the bridge, turn right onto the dirt path along the top of the bank, ignoring the steps on your left. Dip down to the tarmac path to pass under Cambrian Bridge and immediately back up on the top of the bank. Leave the path to the left, through the gate on to Dolafon Road. Turn right, follow the road around to the left and arrive back at the Waggon and Horses.

Waggon and Horses.

This local pub run by Neil and Jackie offers excellent bar service with real ale and meals in their Garden Restaurant. The opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday - from 6 pm
Friday - 12-2 and again from 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday - all day from noon

Open lunchtime during the week by arrangement, phone 01686 625790.



**Walk 5
Coed y Graig**

↑
NORTH