

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK

(SECTION 1)

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet describes a 9km (5½ miles) section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. You should be able to complete this section of the walk in 3 hours but allow more time if you are thinking of visiting some of the sites identified in the leaflet or you simply want to enjoy the countryside. The villages of Laleston, Pen-y-fai and Sarn have everything that you will need by way of facilities.

For convenience the directions below are written with Merthyr Mawr as the starting point (for this section of the walk). You could, however, equally well start from Sarn Park & Ride or any point along the route and, if travelling in the opposite direction, simply reverse all the directions.

If you wish to visit **Ogmore Castle (1)** and **Castle Tea Rooms** leave the car park by means of the swing bridge. Then follow an ancient track and cross the River Ewenny via the stepping stones. However, you must take care as the tides can be exceptionally dangerous as they change very quickly and you could be isolated on the wrong side of the river. It is easy to see why the Normans built a castle here as it commands a strategic position on the River Ewenny.

To begin this section of the walk, from the car park near the swing bridge in Merthyr Mawr - walk back towards the village green along the road. When you get to the green follow the road to the left and continue walking along it with the church on your right hand side.

Merthyr Mawr (2) is an idyllic little settlement, as picturesque as they come, with an outstanding collection of thatched dwellings beautifully positioned around an old Village Green. Surrounded by meadows and woodlands, the **Ancient Church (3)**, which dates back to the middle of the 19th Century, was built on an ancient site. Indeed stones have been found dating from the 5th Century suggesting there was an important Christian cemetery here.

Candleston Castle (4), once a 14th century fortified mansion house, is situated on the edge of the Sahara-like dunes of Merthyr Mawr Warren. It is now an Ivy covered ruin that was once the centre point of the village of Treganlaw (Welsh for: The town of a hundred hands), which has been buried beneath the ever shifting sands of Merthyr Mawr Warren.

Merthyr Mawr Warren (5) was once a part of the largest sand dune complex in Britain stretching along the coast to Briton Ferry. The warren is an important wildlife habitat and a site of scientific interest, which shelters a rich variety of plants.

Follow the road until you see a public footpath sign on your right hand side.

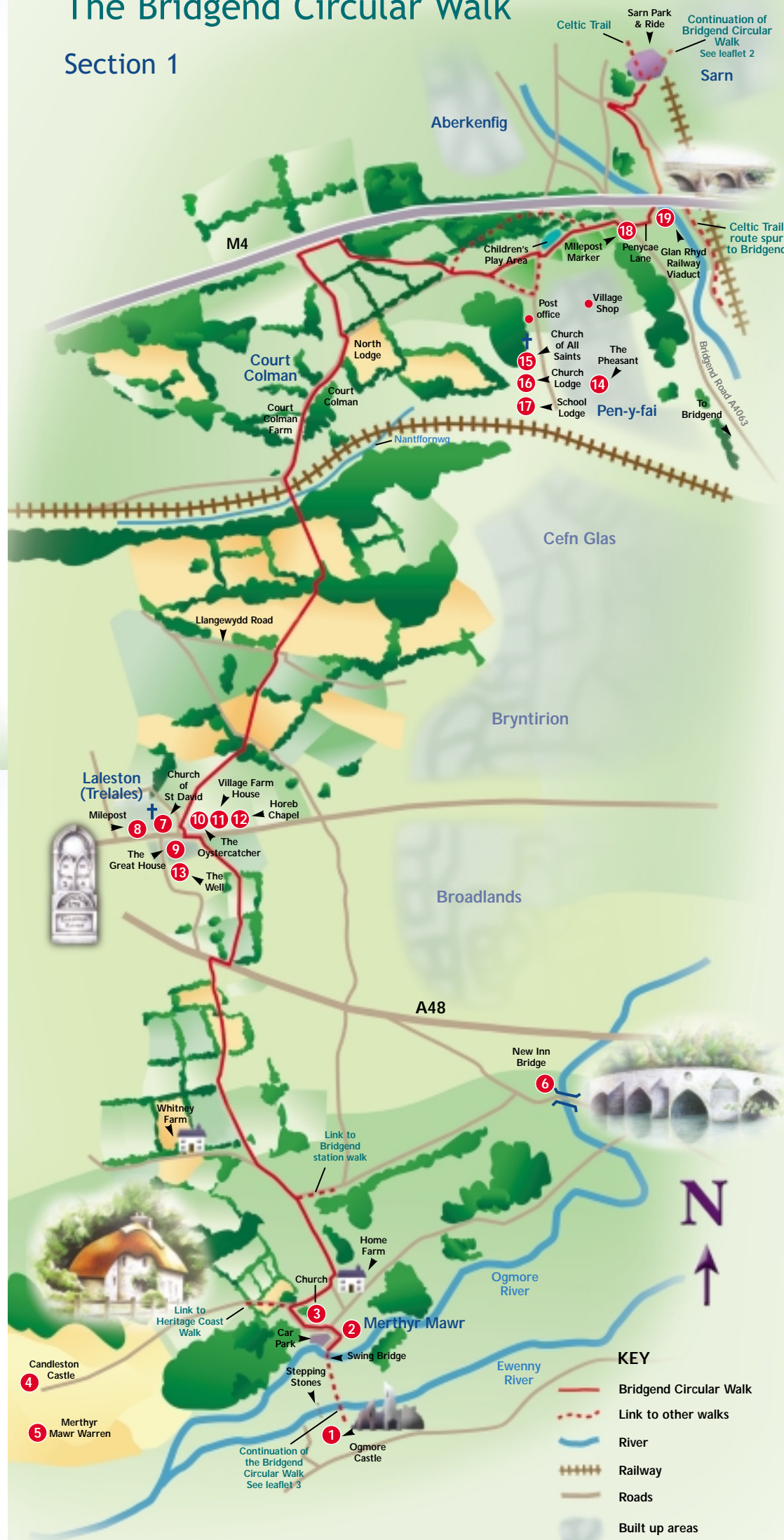
Choice: At this point you can take the road to the left which is a link to the Heritage Coast Walk and Candleston Castle.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk follow the footpath over the stone stile through the wooded area, over a wooden stile (which is waymarked) and across a field to another stone stile opposite Home Farm. After this stile turn left and follow the waymarking posts situated in the verges on the minor road. When you reach the top of the incline on the road you will note a public footpath sign.

Choice: at this point if you want to get to Bridgend Town Centre on the River Ogmore &

The Bridgend Circular Walk

Section 1



Merthyr Mawr Bridgend Station Walk follow the road to the right and continue for a short distance until you see a stone stile in front of you. Go over the stone stile keeping the hedgerow and wall on your right hand side. When you have reached the stile opposite the entrance to Llanerch Home follow the road to the right and take either of the signposted footpaths on either side of the New Inn Bridge.

New Inn Bridge (6) was built in the 15th Century. The holes in the parapets were where farmers once pushed reluctant sheep into the River Ogmore for a seasonal dip! At the side of the bridge there once stood an Inn where the LandLord would rob and murder travellers en route to St. David's shrine.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk follow the footpath as signed along the rough track towards Whitney Farm. Before reaching the farm take the waymarked footpath on the right hand side which leads through a small wooded area to a wooden stile. Follow the footpath along the field edge as waymarked on the stile with the hedgerow on your right hand side. Please note that the four fields on this section of route often contain cattle and other stock. You can help by reporting loose dogs or other problems affecting stock to the farmer at Whitney Farm. At the end of the field there is a wooden stile with an adjoining field gate. Cross this stile and follow the waymarks to a metal field gate. Go through the gate and the footpath continues to the stone stile with the hedgerow on your left hand side.

Cross the A48 (however take care as the traffic is usually travelling at high speeds). Follow the tarmac path and go over the stone stile. Cross the field to another stone stile and in the next field follow the well worn path to the waymarking post at the end of the field. Take the field to the left and continue until you reach a stone stile. Go straight ahead after the stile and you will then be on High Street in the

village of Laleston.

As well as being able to find most of the facilities you will need the Village of Laleston also has some interesting features.

The medieval **Church of St. David (7)** is located in the centre of the village. It sits on a slight rise above High Street and is listed Grade 1. Parts of the church date back to the 13th and 14th Centuries. The church currently has four bells hanging in the tower. The oldest one was cast at a Bristol foundry in 1380 and has an inscription that reads "Sancte Michael, ora pro nobis". Translated this means "St. Michael pray for us".

Situated on High Street in Laleston are also the following points of interest:

The Milepost (8), which is Grade 2 listed, is a good example of an elaborately detailed cast iron milepost. It is situated opposite the Mackworth Arms and was one of a series of cast-iron mileposts erected in the 1830's for the Bridgend Turpike Trust. The Road itself was first turnpiked in 1764.

The Great House (9) is a listed Grade 2* building. It is an Elizabethan manor house with parts of the building dating back to 1586. The building is considered to be an important survival of a larger early post medieval house. It is now a hotel and restaurant.

On High Street you will also find **The Oystercatcher Public House (10)**, **Village Farm House (11)** and **Horeb Chapel (12)** all of which are Grade 2 listed.

Until 1928 when mains water became available in the village **The Well (13)**, which is situated off Well Street, was the main source of water.

When you reach High Street turn left and you will note waymarks on a lighting column on the opposite side of the road. Walk between house numbers 41 and 43 High Street and follow the lane for approximately 30 metres. At this point on your right hand-side you will note an old concrete public footpath sign about 2ft high,

follow the accommodation track for approximately 100 metres past Rock House and Elm Cottages and you will note a stile and a signposted public footpath directly ahead of you.

Follow the signposted and way-marked footpath over 6 stiles through fields that sometimes contain cattle to a wooden stile in a small wooded area. Continue over this stile and follow the worn track through a wild meadow field to another wooden stile on Llangewydd Road.

The footpath on the opposite side of the road is signposted, waymarked and has a wooden stile at the start. Follow this footpath across the field in the direction of the waymark arrow to a point where the footpath enters a wooded area. Continue through the wood on the waymarked footpath to a wooden stile. Continue over the stile and straight ahead in a general northerly direction again through a large field to a wooden footbridge. The footpath carries on over a wooden stile and then through an underpass on the South Wales Main Line Railway through a small holding and over a wooden stile, then follow the minor road to the right.

Follow the road as waymarked on posts in the verges. (Remember to take care when walking on country roads and use verges where possible.) Follow the road past both the entrances to Court Coleman and the property known as North Lodge. Shortly after North Lodge take the minor road to the left. Continue on this road until just before the road bridge that goes over the M4 Motorway.

At this point take the waymarked and signposted footpath on the right hand side of the road through a smallholding and over two wooden stiles. Follow the waymarked route on the old highway bounded by trees on both sides. When you reach the junction with the minor road turn left to Penyfai. You will then be heading towards Penyfai. You have several options from this point. You can cross the two areas of common or

use the pavement on Heol Tyn y Garn. (Note that should you wish to sit down for a while there are benches on the common and also a children's play area).

The village of Pen-y-fai has a small Post Office on Pen-yr-Heol, and a village shop on Treharne Drive. The following buildings and structures are within a few minutes walk of the Circular Walk Route and may be worth a visit.

The Pheasant Public House (14) is located on the south side of Pen-y-fai village on Heol Eglwys. The building is listed Grade 2 and was originally a sub-medieval hall and parlour house and was built in the 16th Century. The building was modernised in 1967 and converted to a public house.

On the opposite side of the road to The Pheasant are three more listed Grade 2 buildings including the Church of All Saints (15), Church Lodge (16) and School Lodge (17). All of these Buildings were built by Robert Llewellyn of Court Coleman between 1898 and 1903 and are considered to be a fine group of buildings at the former entrance to Court Coleman.

The Tyn-y-garn Mile Marker (18) is located at the junction of Heol Tyn-y-Garn and Bridgend Road and is listed Grade 2. It is a detailed Victorian mile marker that dates from the mid 19th Century and is associated with the South Wales Railway and indicates 2¼ miles to the railway station in Bridgend.

At the end of Heol Tyn y Garn you will come to the A4063. As a safety precaution you should cross the road by using the central reservation opposite the bus stop. The Bridgend Circular Walk then follows the minor road called Penycae lane over the old stone bridge that crosses the River Ogmore.

Glan Rhyd Railway Viaduct (19) which bridges the River Ogmore is listed Grade 2* as a rare and especially fine example of an early railway bridge and an important component of the early industrial history of the district. The bridge was constructed to carry the Bridgend Railway, a

horse-drawn railway built between 1827 and 1830. It is now a road bridge. On the western side of the bridge is an engraved tablet reading "This bridge was erected in the year 1829 by Morgan Thomas, Laleston, Mason".

Choice: at this point you can take the spur of the Celtic Trail Cycle Route to Bridgend Town Centre. To do this continue along Pen-y-cae lane and follow the road markings and signs for route 4 alongside the river, through Wildmill, over the new cycle route bridge and through Trews Field industrial estate until the route terminates at Bridgend Rugby Club.

Just after the bridge you will see a stile on the left. To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk use the stile or a chicane type barrier adjacent to it to get onto the next section of the route. (This is also a part of the Bridgend spur of the National Cycle Network Route 4 known as the Celtic Trail.)

Follow the tarmac surface and the wooden decking along this route and you will then come to the Sarn Bypass Road. Use the Toucan Crossing on the dual carriageway and then follow the signs to the Sarn Park and Ride car park. You have now reached your destination. However, if you wish, you could do any of the following from this point:

- Retrace your steps to Merthyr Mawr
- Continue on the next section of the Bridgend Circular Walk (See leaflet 2)
- Follow the Route 4 Celtic Trail to Blackmill or Tondy
- Catch a train into Bridgend from Sarn Station
- Visit McArthur Glen Design Outlet Village Near Sarn Services

Thanks to the following for helping to either prepare the walk and text or for sponsoring the leaflet:



BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



9km (5½ miles) 3 hours

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The going is easy although it may be wet in places. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/boots and take food and drink with you. Follow the Country Code and when you are on roads, keep to the right and make use of verges whenever you can.

It should be easy to follow the route using the map and instructions inside this leaflet. When walking the route try and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional waymarks with yellow arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public footpath. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

For further information about this walk, to pass on your comments and suggestions or to report any practical problems on any of the paths please contact the Rights of Way Section, Environmental and Planning Services Directorate, Morien House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (telephone 01656 642537 or 01656 642516).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are number of bus routes that link to the Bridgend Circular Walk. In Laleston you can catch the X1 service which runs hourly Monday to Saturday to Bridgend Town Centre, and has a journey time of 5 minutes. From Heol Tyn-y-Garn in Penyfai there are three bus services that go to Bridgend Town Centre two of the services have a journey time of about 7 minutes and the third service runs via Sainsburys and takes about 15 minutes.

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



Distance: 32KM (20 miles)



- Key:-
- 1 Link to Vale Millennium Trail.
 - 2 Link to Ewenny Circular Walk.
 - 3 Link to Nant Bryn-glas Circular Walk.
 - 4 Link to Sky to Sea Long Distance Trail.
 - 5 Link to Ogwr Ridgeway Long Distance Trail.
 - 6 Link to Sarn Station Walk (Proposed).
 - 7 Link to C4 C/way and Community Routes.
 - 8 Link to Bridgend Station Walk.
 - 9 Link to Heritage Coast Walk.
 - 10 Link to St. Brides Circular Walk.

If you wish to get to Bridgend Town Centre from Sarn Village there are 6 regular services that have journey times ranging between 11 and 20 minutes. Alternatively you can catch a train from Sarn Station. The trains operate every hour between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday with a journey time of 8 minutes.

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's Public Transport Section on 01656 642559 or the National Bus Enquiry line on 0870 6082608. Information regarding train times can be made via National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

CAR PARKING

The two car parks at Merthyr Mawr and Sarn Park and Ride detailed in this leaflet are free of charge. The car park in Merthyr Mawr has a rough surface and is situated near the swing bridge. The car park at Sarn Park and Ride is a tarmac surface and is monitored by CCTV.

ACCOMMODATION

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centres. These are at McArthur Glen Designer Outlet off Junction 36 the M4 (telephone 01656 654906) and at John Street, Porthcawl (telephone 01656 643182).

For further general information about the Bridgend area you can contact us via e-mail at tourism@bridgend.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can visit our website - which is at

www.bridgend.gov.uk

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK

(SECTION 2)

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet describes a 10km (6 Miles) section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. You should be able to complete this section of the walk in 3 hours but allow more time if you are thinking of visiting some of the sites identified in the leaflet or if you simply want to enjoy the countryside. The villages of Sarn and Coychurch have most of the things you will need by way of facilities as has Pencoed Town.

For convenience purposes the directions below are written with Sarn Park and Ride as the starting point for this section of the walk. You could, however, equally well start from Coychurch or any point along the route, and if travelling in the opposite direction simply reverse all the directions.

Before starting the walk from Sarn if you wish to visit the **Church of St Bride (1)** (Llansantffraid) then leave the park and ride car park and walk along Heol Persondy for a short distance and the church will be on your right hand side. The Church is listed grade 2 as a much restored Medieval Parish Church which originates from the 14th or 15th Century and was heavily restored by G.E.Halliday in 1896. The sundial in the porch of the church dates from 1762 and within the churchyard there are several tombs and monuments that are also Listed Grade 2.

To begin this section of the walk from the Sarn Park and Ride car park follow the footway on the



The Bridgend Circular Walk

Section 2

KEY

- Bridgend Circular Walk
- Link to other walks
- River
- Railway
- Roads
- Built up areas

left hand side of the road under the railway bridge. Follow the pavement up Sarn Hill until you come to a turning on your right hand side, at this point cross the road and you will see the street name plate for Sarn Hill. Continue along this road and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo and waymarkers on the lighting columns along Sarn Hill.

When you get to the junction with Bryncoch Road turn right and follow the pavement until on the left hand side of the road you see a junction into a street called Bryncwils. Cross the road at this point and walk straight ahead through the metal kissing gate where the footpath is sign-posted. Continue straight ahead along a rough access track to a wooden stile and field gate. Follow the track across the Coity Wallia Common until you see a wooden stile within the fence line straight ahead of you. Go over the stile but **Take care!** as there is only a small grass verge between the stile and the road.

Cross the road at this point and turn right following the pavement along which you will note the occasional waymarks either on lighting columns, traffic sign poles or on wooden way-marking posts. Continue on the pavement until you see an access track on your left-hand side, leading to an old pump house where you will also see a footpath sign at the top of the track. Should you wish to take a rest at this point there is a bench near the pump house where you can sit and look over towards Sarn.

However, should you wish to continue on the walk go over the wooden stile and follow the well defined track alongside the fence line. Continue on this track with the fence line on your right hand side until you get to a point where you will see a mobile phone mast and a wall which surrounds a covered a reservoir. At this point take the wider track to your left hand side. Follow this track which will eventually

bring you back towards the fence line, at which point you will note a metal public footpath sign ahead of you, walk towards this sign where you will come to the road that crosses the common.

At this point cross the road onto the pavement on the opposite side and turn right, follow the pavement over the M4 motorway bridge until you come to a public footpath which is signed on your left hand side. Turn left and follow the footpath along the access track for approximately 75 metres then follow the waymarked footpath on your left hand side across the common running alongside the motorway fencing. Continue on the footpath until it bears right onto a wider track past the property known as Bryn-Awel.

Continue on the access track until you get to a point near Rose Cottage where a waymark indicates that you take the grass track to your right hand side. Follow the footpath along the grass track for a short distance until you come to a tarmac surface near properties known as Dan-y-Bryn and Dyffryn Awel. At this point follow the track to your left hand side and continue along it until you come to a cattle grid. Continue through the kissing gate along the tarmac track known as Pant-y-Pwllau to it's junction with Heol Las.

Choice: at this point turn right and follow the road into the village of Coity.

The village of Coity (2) is situated two miles northeast of Bridgend, having at its centre the extensive 12th Century ruin of Coity Castle. Immediately to the east of the castle is the 14th Century Church of St.Mary. You will also find a shop and a pub in the village.

Coity Castle (3) is Listed Grade 1 as an important example of medieval defensive architecture in Wales. The castle was founded in the early 12th Century and was probably built by Sir Guilbert de Turbeville a descendant of Payn de Turbeville who

was given the lordship of Coity for his part in the conquest of Glamorgan. In 1404 it became "the most talked about place" in the country when it was besieged by Owain Glyndwr. At the time it was the only place in South Wales still loyal to King Henry IV. The castle was still partly inhabited until the early 18th Century, however, it was largely in ruins by the mid 18th Century.

The Church of St Mary (4) is Grade 1 listed and was built in the early 14th Century, possibly on the site of an earlier church. On the tower of the church you will see some particularly ugly gargoyles. The east window of the church depicts Christ rescuing Peter from the Sea, Christ rescuing the woman with an issue of blood, and Doubting Thomas. The church's most celebrated relic is an oak chest with carvings depicting the Passion of Christ.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk cross the road and continue straight ahead on the public footpath which runs along the track. Please note that most of the fields on the route from this point to Coed-y-Mwstwr Uchaf Farm often contain cattle and sheep. You can help by reporting loose dogs or other problems affecting stock to the farmer. Go through the field gate and continue on the track over a wooden stile alongside a cattle grid to a point just before the access track which leads up to Giblet Farm. Follow the path to the right hand side as indicated by the waymarking post and continue to follow the path with the fence line and hedgerow on your right hand side.

Walk through this first large field until you come to another field gate, go through the field gate and straight ahead, towards the wooded area. Follow the well defined path through the wooded area where you will see a stile in the hedgerow on your left hand side. Go over the

stile and follow the direction of the waymark arrow across the field heading towards a metal kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and then follow the access track that leads out onto Hendre Road.

At the junction with Hendre Road turn left and walk along the road, you may note wooden way-mark posts with the Bridgend Circular Walk logo and waymarking discs. Continue along Hendre Road until you come to a cross roads and take the road to the right hand side. A property known as Hendre Farm will be on your right hand side. Continue along the highway until a point where you will see a public footpath sign on your left hand side.

At this point there is a field gate, go through the field gate and continue with the hedgerow on your left hand side. You will be heading down a slope until a point where the field narrows considerably, at which point you will come to another field gate, go through the gate and head to the bottom of the motorway embankment where at the next field boundary you will see a wooden stile in the left hand corner of the field. Go over the stile and keeping the fence line close to your left hand side follow the field edge path up a slight incline. Continue through this field for some distance until you get to a hedged boundary straight ahead of you with a stile in the left hand corner.

Choice: at this point you can continue straight ahead over the stile on this footpath though the subway under the M4 Motorway, then across the playing fields along Woodland Avenue to the junction with Hendre Road turn right and continue along Hendre Road over the railway crossing. You are now in the Town of Pencoed where you will find all of the facilities you will need. From the playing fields you can also access the Sky to Sea long Distance Trail by walking along Llwyn Gwern then right on Hendre Road then left along Heol Wastadwaun for 560 metres then take the sign-posted footpath on the right hand side and

continue along the footpath until you get to the top of the ridge on Hirwaun Common at which point you can take the Sky to Sea over the Bwlch to the north or the Sky to Sea through the Vale of Glamorgan which heads south.

To remain on the Bridgend Circular Walk **do not** go over this stile but turn sharp right keeping the hedgerow on your left hand side heading towards a tree lined boundary. At this point you go over another wooden stile and through the centre of the field heading towards a large wooded area. As you enter the wooded area you will see another wooden stile. Go over the stile and follow the path defined through the wooded area until you come to another wooden stile. Go over the wooden stile and head in the direction indicated by the waymark arrow.



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At this point you should be heading towards Coed-y-Mwstwr Uchaf Farm. The footpath runs along an access track through the metal field gate, and continues straight ahead on the access track. The farm at this point will be on your left hand side. Follow the access track for approximately 220 metres through another field gate, at which point you will be overlooking Coychurch. Continuing along this track, you will pass two properties on your right hand side and eventually you will come to a point on a private access track which leads to the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel. At the junction with this road turn left following the road downhill for approximately 160 metres until a point on the left hand side where the public footpath will be waymarked and you will note a metal kissing gate in the fence line.

Go through the gate and walk to the left hand side of the golf green then head down the slope to the opposite corner of the field. You will then come to an opening in the hedgerow go through the gap in the hedge and follow the path between two small barns. Go straight ahead

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through the two field gates, following the access track then go through the kissing gate which is near a property called Coed-y-Mwstwr Isaf."

Go straight ahead from the kissing gate where you will cross a fairway on the golf course. Remember to take care and watch out for golf balls. Within the next boundary you will note the remnants of an old kissing gate and two public footpath signs, just follow the direction of the sign, keeping to the waymarked path. You will go over another fairway towards an old hedge line which you keep to your right hand side, near a teeing off point, if you look straight ahead from this point you will notice a gap in the vegetation which leads to the railway, walk through this gap until you come to a kissing gate where you will cross the Swansea to Paddington main railway line. Please ensure that you stop, look and listen and beware of the trains as they travel at high speeds along this section of track. Walk over the boarded walkway across the railway line and through another kissing gate at which point you turn right and follow a footpath which is bounded on both sides and runs alongside Coychurch Junior School.

When you get to the end of this footpath you will be on a street called Meadow Close, turn right and follow the pavement on Meadow Close.

Choice: if you want to walk the Nant Bryn-Glas Circular Walk continue along Meadow Close until you get to house number 15, walk between the houses and over the railway line and follow the road to the road junction at Shelf, turn left down the hill and take the public footpath on the right just before the stream.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular walk take the first turning on your left hand side on Meadow Close, and proceed along the footway where you will note waymarks on the lighting columns. Continue to a point where you come to a junction with Main Road. You have now reached your destination, the village of Coychurch.

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The village of Coychurch (5) has a public telephone box, Post Office, village shop/garage and the Prince of Wales and White Horse public houses. The village is perhaps best known for the Reverend Thomas Richards, who was curate of Coychurch (Llangrallo) for over 40 years and was responsible for compiling a Welsh to English dictionary first published in 1753. The Tombstone of Thomas Richards (6) is Listed Grade 2 and can be found in the churchyard of St.Crallo.

The Church of St.Crallo (7) was built in the late 13th Century and is situated in the heart of the village. It is Listed Grade 1 as a building of outstanding architectural quality. As well as the tomb of Thomas Richards the churchyard also contains a group of 3 table tombs (8) situated close to the south porch of the church these are all Listed Grade 2 and a Medieval Churchyard Cross which is Listed Grade 2*.

At this point you can:

- Retrace your steps to Sarn
- Continue on the next section of the Bridgend Circular Walk (see leaflet 3)
- Catch a bus into Bridgend or Pencoed
- Use the facilities in the village of Coychurch

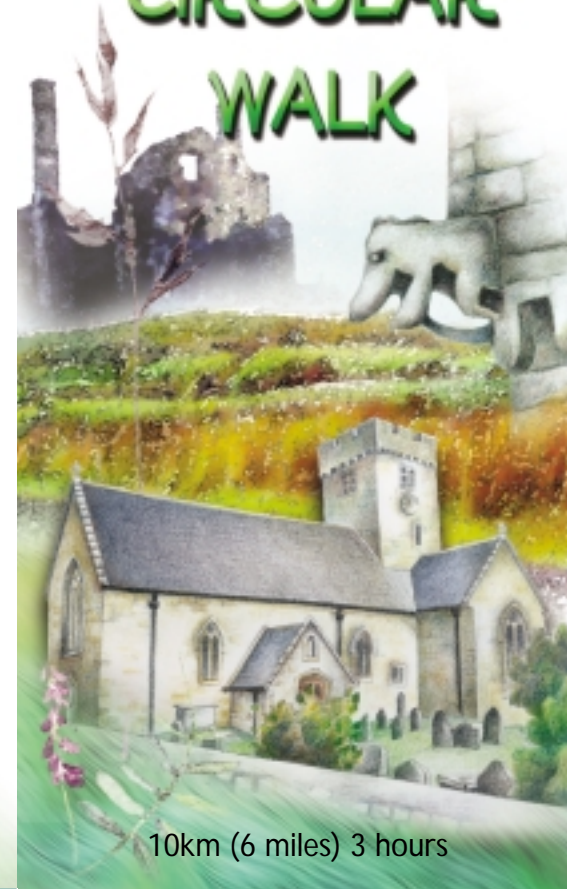
Thanks to the following for helping to either prepare the walk and text or for sponsoring the leaflet:



Leaflet 2



BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



10km (6 miles) 3 hours

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The going is easy although it may be wet in places. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/boots and take food and drink with you. Follow the Country Code and when you are on roads, keep to the right and make use of verges whenever you can.

It should be easy to follow the route using the map and instructions inside this leaflet. When walking the route try and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional waymarks with yellow arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public footpath. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

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For further information about this walk, to pass on your comments and suggestions or to report any practical problems on any of the paths please contact the Rights of Way Section, Environmental and Planning Services Directorate, Morien House, Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (telephone 01656 642537 or 01656 642516).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are a number of bus routes that link to this section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. If you wish to get to Bridgend Town Centre from Sarn Village there are 6 regular services that have journey times ranging between 11 and 20 minutes, 7 days a week. All buses from Sarn to Bridgend go via McArthur Glen Outlet. Alternatively you can catch a train from Sarn Station to Bridgend and Cardiff. The trains operate every hour between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday with a journey time to Bridgend of 8 minutes.

Coychurch village has 3 regular bus services departing from Main Road (nos. 44, 62 and 244). The services operate every 15 minutes, daytime

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



Monday to Saturday and travel to Bridgend via Brackla. The journey time is 12 minutes.

Pencoed bus services depart from the War Monument in the centre of the town. There are 3 frequent bus services to Bridgend, departing every 15 minutes, daytime, Monday to Saturday. The journey time is 16 minutes travelling via Coychurch and Brackla. Services to Bridgend - 44,62, and 244. Trains from Pencoed to Bridgend and Cardiff operate every hour between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Saturday with a journey time to Bridgend of 7 minutes.

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's Public Transport Section on 01656 642559 or the National Bus Enquiry number on 0870 6082608. Information regarding train times can be made via National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

CAR PARKING

The car park at Sarn Park and Ride is monitored by CCTV.

ACCOMMODATION

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centres. These are at McArthur Glen Designer Outlet off Junction 36 of the M4 (telephone 01656 654906) and at John Street, Porthcawl (telephone 01656 786639).

For further general information about the Bridgend area you can contact us via e-mail at tourism@bridgend.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can visit our website - which is at

www.bridgend.gov.uk

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK

LEAFLET 3 (VALE SECTION)

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet describes a 13 Km (8 Mile) section of the Bridgend Circular Walk. You should be able to complete this section of the walk in 4 hours but allow more time if you are thinking of visiting some of the sites identified in this leaflet or if you simply want to enjoy the countryside. The villages of Coychurch, and St. Brides Major have most of the things you will need by way of facilities.

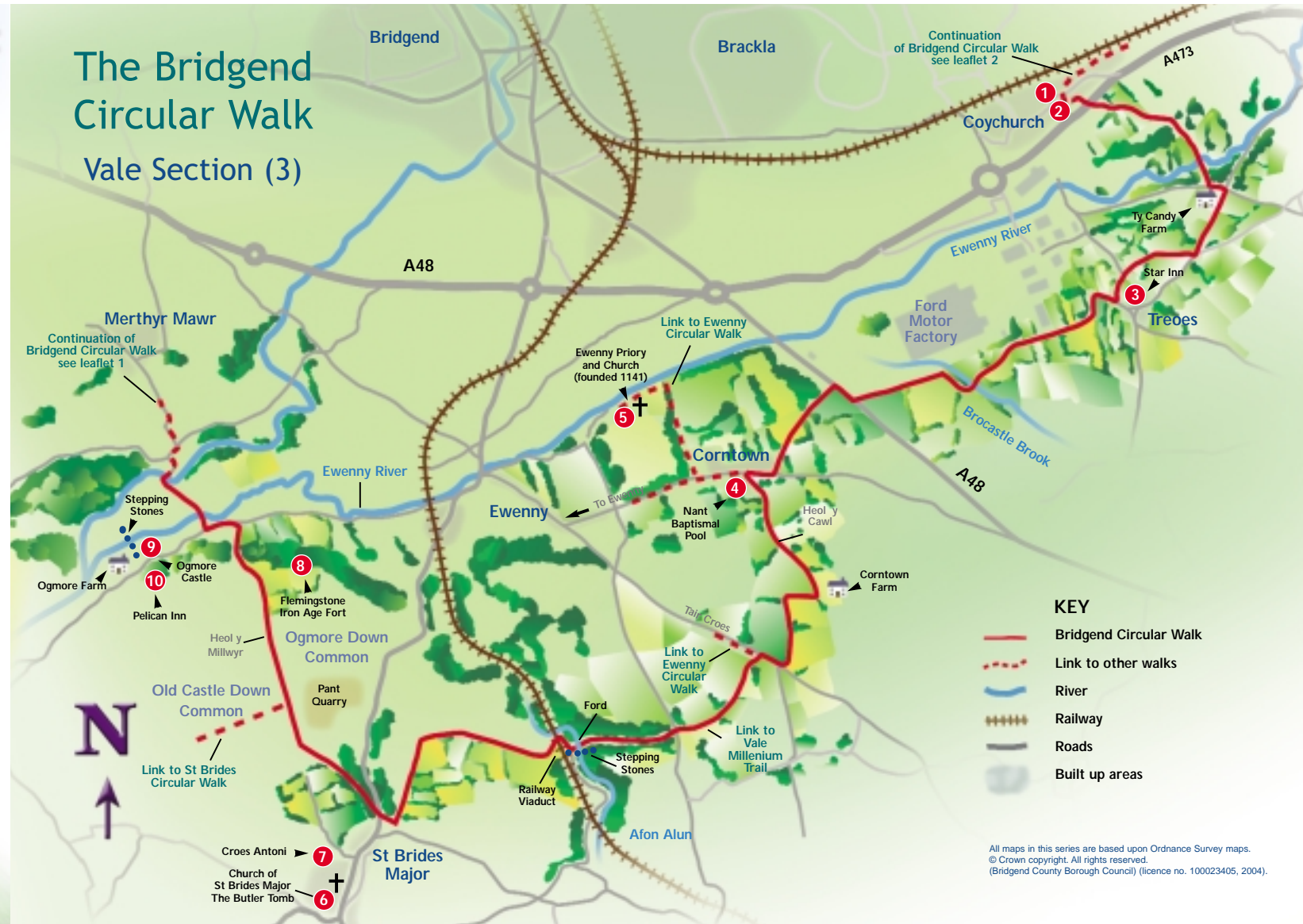
For convenience purposes the directions below are written with the village of Coychurch as the starting point for this section of the walk. You could however equally start from Merthyr Mawr or any point along the route, and if travelling in the opposite direction simply reverse all the directions.

Before starting the walk from Coychurch you could visit the Church of **St. Crallo (1)** and the **Tombstone of Thomas Richards (2)** which can be found in the churchyard. Further details on these sites of interest can be found in Bridgend Circular Walk leaflet (2).

1

To begin this section of the walk leave the Main Road in Coychurch Village and follow the road between the properties known as Isfryn and Coychurch Cottage. Then take the public footpath on your left which runs between Nos. 28 and 29 St.

Mary's View, walk across the road and follow the signposted footpath between Nos. 22 and 23 St. Mary's View. Cross over the stone stile onto the verge of the A473. Take care when crossing this dual carriageway and follow the way-marked tarmac path across the central reservation. Use the steps and follow the waymarked footpath over a stone stile and a wooden stile and continue across the field. Pass through three kissing gates to a point where you come to a small wooded area. Go over another stone stile and follow the well-defined path through the woods and through the metal kissing gate. Follow the waymarks across the first small field and over the



| KEY | |
|-----|------------------------|
| | Bridgend Circular Walk |
| | Link to other walks |
| | River |
| | Railway |
| | Roads |
| | Built up areas |

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wooden deck board heading for the large river bridge in front of you. Go over the bridge and continue straight ahead until you reach a wooded area, walk through the wooded area where you will note an old derelict farmhouse. The footpath then goes through two field gates and comes out on a country road.

To continue the walk, turn left and walk along the road until you come to a road junction. At the junction turn right past Ty Candy Farm and walk along the road for approximately 500 metres until you come to a property known as Tyn y Caeau. At this point you will note a wooden footpath sign on your right hand side, go through the double field gate (remember to close the field gate behind you) and head in the direction of the way-marks across 2 fields and over 2 wooden stiles. Once you have gone over the second stile head towards the wooden signpost near the road, turn left and follow the pavement. You are now entering the village of Treoes on a street called Glan-y-Nant.

2

In the centre of the village of Treoes you will find a number of Grade 2 Listed buildings including **The Star Inn PH (3)**, which is a characterful village house with a thatched roof. Some parts of the building date from the mid to late 17th Century. Opposite The Star Inn is Treoes Farmhouse also Grade 2 Listed as an early to mid 19th Century Farmhouse, which is unaltered.

Continue along Glan-y-Nant then take the street on your right hand side called Parc Newydd. Keep walking along Parc Newydd and then turn left past the property known as Old Barn. Continue along this road past the property known as Ty Deri at which point the footpath follows a rough access track for some distance to a point where a field gate will be straight in front of you.

Go through the field gate and continue almost straight ahead until you see a wooden footbridge over Brocastle Brook, go over the two wooden stiles at either end of the footbridge and turn right following the waymark arrow until you come to another wooden footbridge across another brook. Go over both stiles on this footbridge and then turn right heading towards the Ford Motor factory. Climb over the wooden stile in the fence line and

turn left. Follow this public footpath, which is bounded on one side by a hedgerow and post and wire fence and the other by the security fence of the Ford factory. Continue along the footpath for 800 metres until a point where you come to a wooden stile. Go over the wooden stile and up a set of concrete steps. At the top of the steps turn right and follow the stone dust path along the verge of the A48 until you get to a wooden sign post which is waymarked across the road. Take care when you are crossing the road and use the central reservation.

Follow the stone dust path which is waymarked into the Bridgend Golf Complex. From here go over a wooden stile and follow the tarmac access track until you see a gap in the hedgerow where there are the remnants of an old stile, go through the gap and head towards a steel stile which is situated in the boundary of a football field, go over the steel stile and across the football pitches to a point where you will see a tall metal gate in the hedgerow near the road. Go through this gate and turn right along Corntown Road towards the village of Corntown, using the grass verge for a short distance then the pavement.

3

The Nant Baptismal Pool (4) in Corntown was once used for baptising people. However, it is thought that the last baptism was performed here at the turn of the 20th Century. More recently it has been used for watering cattle. The pool is fed by groundwater and overflows into "The Nant", which eventually flows through the ground of the Ewenny Priory and into the Ewenny River.



In the village there are also some Grade 2 Listed buildings which include Corntown Court which has 17th or 18th Century origins and Corntown Farm which has 14th Century origins and is an important frontage in the centre of Corntown Village.

Choice: At this point continue along Corntown Road to a point where there is a footpath on your right hand side which leads to the grounds of **Ewenny Priory (5)** or just continue along the road for approximately 1km which will bring you into the

4

Village of Ewenny. There is also a link to the Ewenny Circular Walk.

Ewenny is a unique rural village just south of Bridgend situated on the edge of the Ewenny River. In the village you will find a grocery store, a craft shop and café.

The highlight of the village is the Ewenny Priory and Church.

In 1141 the Church of St. Michael became the beginning of the Benedictine priory of Ewenny granted to the Abbey of St. Peter at Gloucester together with the churches of St. Bride's Major, St. Michael at Colwinston and the Manor at Lampha. The Priory and church was founded by Norman nobleman, Maurice de Londres and is widely regarded as one of the finest fortified religious buildings in Britain. The village of Ewenny is also home to Ewenny Pottery founded in 1610 and still worked by the same family. It is the oldest working pottery in Wales.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular walk - Shortly after entering Corntown take the turning on your left hand side signed for Heol y Cawl and Nant Lias. You will also note a wooden footpath sign pointing up the track towards Corntown Farm. This track is steep in places. When you get to the gates of Corntown Farm you will note a wooden stile on your right hand side. Go over the wooden stile turn left and follow the field edge path. Follow the path into the corner of the field where the route turns right and the field edge path continues again with the boundary on your left hand side. You will come to a point where on your left hand side there is a wooden stile and a double field gate either go over the stile or, if the field gate is open, go through the double field gate.

At this point, if you wish to stop and take a breath, on a clear day the view is quite spectacular and you should be able to see Bridgend Town and beyond. Continue straight ahead from the wooden stile and double field gates and follow the field edge path with a dry stone wall on your left-hand side. This eventually turns into a hedgerow. Keeping the hedgerow on your left hand side continue along the footpath until you note a wooden way-mark post with a way-mark arrow indicating that you bear

5

right, continue along the field edge path through a field gate out onto the road where the footpath is sign posted in the verge.

Turn right at this point and follow the road which is known as Tair Croes, until you note a public bridleway signpost on your left hand side. Continue along the bridleway, which is bounded on both sides for a short distance before it runs into an open field. Keeping the field boundary on your left hand side continue along the field edge bridleway through the wooded area (please note that the surface of this section of path can be wet at times, so wear suitable footwear). As you come out of the wooded area follow the direction of the way-mark arrow and keeping the field edge on your left hand side continue along the bridleway to a point where you go through a small copse area onto a track that widens and terminates on the road.

Choice: At this point you can also take the Vale Millennium Trail which is waymarked.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk cross the road and proceed straight ahead along the tarmac lane until you come to a ford. Use the stepping stones over the Afon Alun, then walk along the bridleway on your right hand side. Continue along the bridleway for a short distance, through a field gate and under the viaduct. Immediately after the railway viaduct turn left through the bridleway gate and follow the track for a short distance.

Keeping the fence line on your left hand side go up the steep embankment where you will see a way-mark post with the Bridgend Circular Walk logo in front of you (Note: this section of route is very steep). Approximately 30 metres up the steep embankment turn right where you will see a defined track: this section of the route is also quite steep so take care when walking.

Follow the route through the gorse and bracken until you come to the wide open track on top of the Old Castle Down Common. Turn right at this point and follow the well defined and waymarked bridleway until you get to a point where you will note an old dry stone wall. Proceed straight ahead with the wall on your left hand side until the wall ends. Turn left at this point and follow the well-defined path. Continue along the route until you come to a

property known as Brynawel House. The bridgeway continues along a rough access track for a short distance until a point where you will note a wooden waymark post on your right hand side. Follow the direction of the arrow on the post and continue until you come to an opening where you will see a waymark post in front of you. At this point turn right and walk for a short distance until you come to the road that leads into the village of St. Brides Major.

To go into St. Brides Major turn left and go over the cattle grid. The village will have most of the facilities that you will need.

The parish Church of **St. Bride's Major (6)** was built in the 12th Century and is dedicated to St. Bride (an abbreviated form of St. Bridget) a 5th Century Irish Saint. The Church has many interesting features and is well worth a visit.



6

The most interesting feature of the church is an incised sepulchral slab or coffin-lid beneath the altar where it was placed in 1854. The engraving on it shows Johan le Botiler (Butler) of Dunraven. On the North side of the church is a window containing a fine tomb chest (The Butler Tomb) which dates from around 1540. The Churchyard Cross rests on a pedestal on 5 steps, which are indented and worn, caused it is said, by pilgrims kneeling in prayer.

To continue on the Bridgend Circular Walk cross the road and follow the direction of the arrow on the signpost along the tarmac track which runs up an incline. When you get to the top of the track take the bridgeway that is waymarked with the Bridgend Circular Walk logo across the Ogmore Down Common. Continue on the bridgeway for a short distance until you come to an opening, at which point turn right and follow the route on the wide track in the direction of the wooden telegraph poles. Pant Quarry will be on your right hand side, it is fenced off and you will see notices saying 'Keep Out'. Continue along the wide track over the common. At this point the bridgeway follows a section of what was an old Norman military road, Heol y Millwyr, (the road of the soldiers), which

was used by troops commuting to garrison Ogmore Castle below. In the other direction the road was probably used via the Croes Antoni to the Norman castle at Castle Upon-Alun. **Croes Antoni (7)** can be found just to the north west of St. Brides church.

The remains of this stone cross incorporate a cup shaped depression which used to be filled with holy water for use by pilgrims arriving at the Church of St. Bride's.

Without deviating from the wide grass track continue straight ahead where you will note Southerndown Golf Course on your left hand side. Follow the telegraph poles (one of which has a Bridgend Circular Walk waymark on it) until the route becomes bounded on both sides. Continue to a point where there are two routes ahead of you and a field gate on your right hand side. Take the lower route, again following the line of telegraph poles. At this point if you look up to your right you will note the remains of the **Flemington Iron Age Fort (8)**, this is less well known than the one on the cliffs at Dunraven, and it occupies the high ground above the best water supply in the whole area.

7

Go through the wooden field gate and follow the section of bridgeway that is bounded on both sides by dry stone walls. Continue until you will come out on the road near the Schwyll Pumping Station. At this point turn left and follow the pavement.

Choice:

- If you wish you could visit **Ogmore Castle (9)** and Castle Tea Rooms. Ogmore Castle was built during the conquest of the South Wales Coast, the Normans built 3 Castles at Ogmore, Newcastle and Coity (see leaflet 2 for information on Coity Castle). William de Londres built Ogmore Castle as early as 1116 on the South bank of the Ewenny River where it commands a strategic position. The Castle was not completed in one period, one building was added in Tudor times, and was kept in repair until the 19th century as a court of justice, a prison and also to receive court fees, rents and other dues.

- Or spend some time at the ancient **Pelican Inn (10)** overlooking the castle.

8

After visiting Ogmore Castle cross the River Ewenny via the stepping-stones to return to Merthyr Mawr. However, you must take care as the tides can be exceptionally dangerous as they change very quickly and you could be isolated on the wrong side of the river. Story has it that these stones were built for the convenience of a love stricken girl who lived in Ogmore Castle. Her lover lived across the river at Merthyr Mawr and their tryst was impeded by tides and floods. The stepping-stones enabled them to meet each other and they married in July 1233. The bridegroom was William de Breose.

- Ogmore Farm situated next to the Castle is one of the oldest established working farms in Glamorgan although the present farmhouse dates from the 17th Century a lease of the farm is known to one John Walsh as long ago as 1490.

Just before you get to a cattle grid cross the road you will note a Merthyr Mawr Coastal Path waymark arrow embedded on an old stone. Walk through the kissing gate along the tarmac footpath and over the bridge across the River Ewenny. From the bridge continue straight ahead across the field towards the stone stile heading towards the swing bridge. Go over the stone stile, turn right, across the swing bridge which spans the River Ogmore, you have now reached the car park in Merthyr Mawr and reached your destination of Merthyr Mawr Village.

Merthyr Mawr Village is an idyllic little settlement, as picturesque as they come, with an outstanding collection of Thatched Dwellings beautifully positioned around an old Village Green.

Thanks to the following for helping to either prepare the walk and text or for sponsoring the leaflet:



BCBC design@bridgend: 01656 651005
e.mail: design@bridgend.gov.uk

Leaflet 3



BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



13km (8 miles) 4 hours

At this point you can:

- Continue on the next section of the Bridgend Circular Walk (see leaflet 1)
- Or retrace your steps to Coychurch

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The going is generally easy although a few sections of the route are steep and may also be wet in places. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/boots and take food and drink with you. Follow the Countryside Code and when you are on roads, keep to the right and make use of verges whenever you can.

It should be easy to follow the route using the map and instructions inside this leaflet. When walking the route try and look out for the Bridgend Circular Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional waymarks with yellow and blue arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public footpath or bridgeway. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

For further information about this walk, to pass on your comments and suggestions or to report any practical problems on footpaths in the Bridgend Area please contact the Rights of Way Section, Environmental and Planning Services Directorate, Morien House Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (telephone 01656 642537 or 01656 642516). For any practical problems on the section of route in the Vale of Glamorgan area contact the Rights of Way Officer on 01446 704810.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are number of bus routes that link to this section of the Bridgend Circular Walk

Coychurch village has 3 regular bus services departing from Main Road 44, 62 and 244. The services operate every 15 minutes, daytime Monday to Saturday and travel to Bridgend via Brackla the Journey time is 12 minutes.

If you wish to get to or from St. Brides Major there are 2 services to chose from. The 145 - Bridgend and Llantwit Major via Ogmore-by-sea every hour in each direction, Monday to Saturday and 6 services

BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK



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on a Sunday. Please note; the 145 departs from outside the Farmers Arms PH. The 146 service travels between Bridgend and Cardiff Wales Airport 3 times a day, Monday to Saturday. The journey time from St. Brides Major to Bridgend is 16 minutes.

Corntown is linked to Bridgend and Cowbridge with the V4 service. There are 5 services in each direction, Monday to Saturday. Journey time to Bridgend and Cowbridge is 15 minutes.

Ewenny is serviced by bus services 145, 146 and V4. There is one bus service linking Treoes to Bridgend and Cowbridge. It operates 5 times a day, Monday to Saturday. Journey time to Bridgend is 10 minutes and to Cowbridge 30 minutes.

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's, Public Transport Section on 01656 642559 or The Vale of Glamorgan Public Transport Section on 01446 704687 or the National Bus Enquiry number on 0870 6082608.

CAR PARKING

The car park at Merthyr Mawr is a rough surface situated on the bank of the River Ogmore near the swing bridge.

ACCOMMODATION

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centres. These are at McArthur Glen Designer Outlet off Junction 36 of the M4 (telephone 01656 654906) and at John Street, Porthcawl (telephone 01656 786639) or Llantwit Major Visitor Centre (telephone 01446 796086).

For further general information about the Bridgend area you can contact us via e-mail at

tourism@bridgend.gov.uk

or for information on the Vale of Glamorgan area contact

tourism@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can visit us at

www.bridgend.gov.uk