

Carreghofa Community Trail

Summary

The Carreghofa Community Trail is a walk of two halves, either of which makes a circular walk in its own right. The first half is mostly level and easy, crossing low-lying fields then climbing a few steps up to the tow path leading back towards the village. The second half is more challenging, crossing level fields before following some fairly steep paths towards Llanymynech Rocks, with fabulous views across open countryside. Here, you can take a detour to continue to the nature reserve at the top of the hill, otherwise you return down an initially steep and winding bridleway back towards the village and the starting point.

The walk starts and ends at Walls Bridge, a hump-backed bridge over the canal adjacent to the junction for Carreghofa Lane.

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.6km) **Duration:** typically 1.5 hours

Grade: easy (first half) to moderate (second half)

Directions

Following the fingerpost's direction from Carreghofa Lane, walk to the right (west) along the main road for 50 metres and turn left at the side of the Jubilee Recreation Ground and down the sloping track. Follow the way-mark arrows carefully as the path zigzags first to the left along the bottom hedgerow to a small bridge on the right which you cross and, keeping right, cross the field to another small bridge. Cross the next field to a pedestrian gate and follow the path over a low boardwalk and on to another gate. The path remains fairly straight across the middle of the next few fields passing through field gates and a pair of kissing gates either side of a track. Cross the next field then pass through a gate next to some old stone posts. Here, the path enters a field where the disused hedgerow is kept on the left hand and leads to a way-mark post in the corner which guides the path user to the right to another post turning the walker left again towards a kissing gate. Cross the small flood-plain to another gate which leads up the steps and onto the canal towpath.

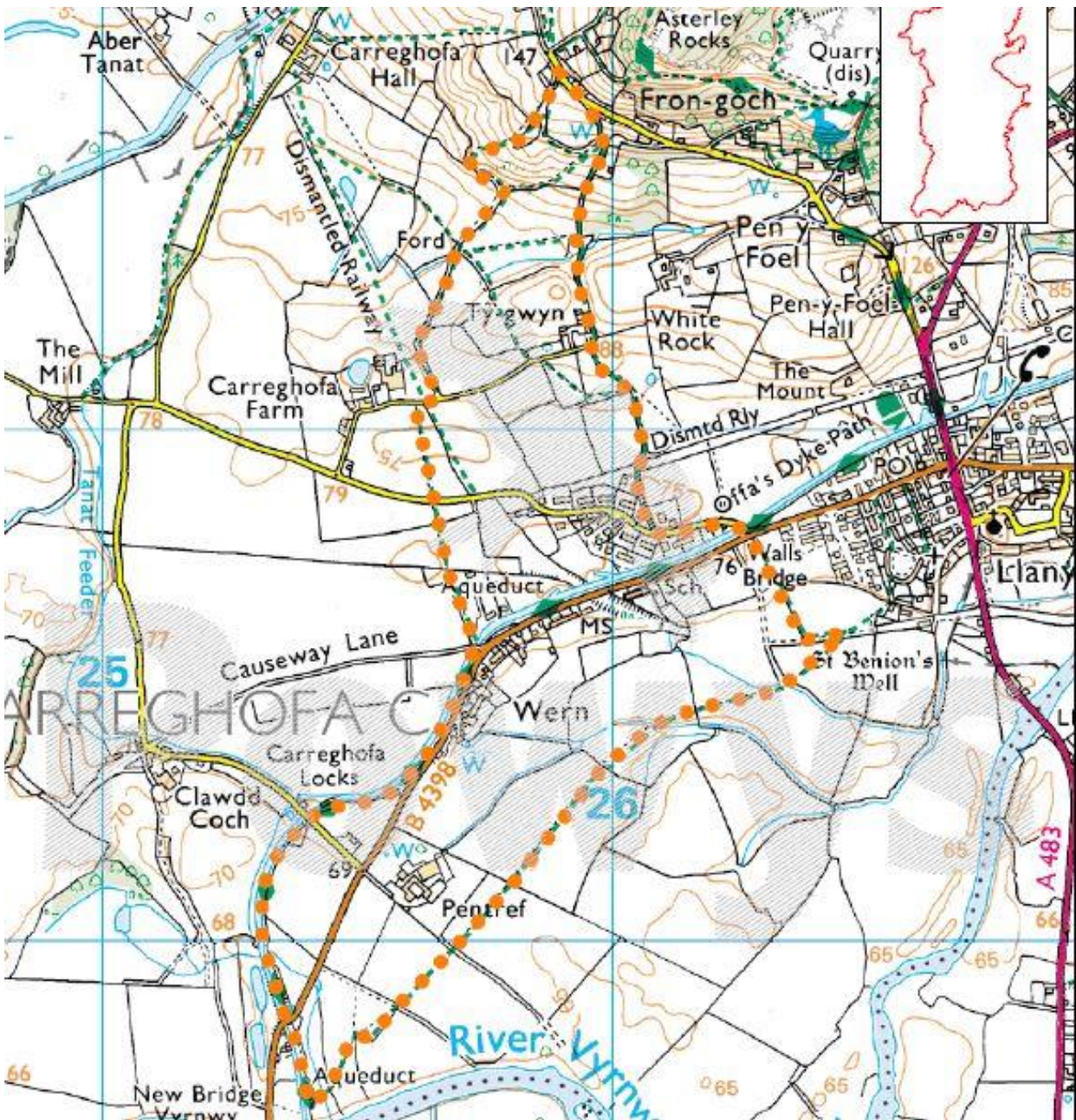
Turn right along the towpath until the next gateway onto the road. Carefully cross the road, rejoin the towpath and continue past Carreghofa Locks under the road bridge and a total of 1.2km until a fingerpost through a gap in the hedge on the right leads onto the roadside.

Note! If you wish to walk only the first half of the Trail, continue along the tow path to return to the start point.

Otherwise, guided by the fingerpost, turn left along the road for a few metres and turn left up and over the canal. Immediately turn right as indicated by another fingerpost and, keeping to the left-hand hedge, pass through a pedestrian gate into a field. Follow the left-hand hedge to the next gate then across two more fields to the gate onto the road. Crossing the road, pass through the field gate and over the field to the gate opposite and onto a minor lane. Turn right and within a few metres turn left up the old stone track which is followed to its end. Pass through the pedestrian gate and, keeping the hedge on the right, find the field gate down to the right which has a small gate within it. Pass through and, following the waymarks, wind up the hill on the old track which soon becomes less defined as the path turns sharp right up the hill then passes a large oak. At a waymark post the path turns left steeply up a sunken lane to a gate passing to the right of a house. The path passes through another gate onto the road.

Note! If you wish to visit Llanymynech Rocks nature reserve, you can divert from the circular route at this point. Turn left then, after about 100m, take the steep track to the right to reach the entry to the reserve.

Otherwise turn right as guided by the fingerpost and follow the road for about 75m then drop down the bridleway to the right. This path runs downhill until it passes some old barns on the right then through a field gate straight ahead next to an ancient stone post marking the old tollgate. Follow the track through the cropped field and pass through the next gate. The track winds on to the right over the old railway and eventually meets Carreghofa Lane. Turn left and after 150m you will find yourself back at the junction with the main road next to Walls Bridge.



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