



Rhydyceasu country walks

Walk No. 1: The Racecourse Figure of Eight
This is the shortest and easiest walk, 1 1/2 hours of 'dewside' time, but in many ways the most spectacular. It is the circuit used by the 18th and 19th centuries for horse racing which makes it unique. For much of the way the route is edged by low walls, called locally 'bunds', to mark where the spectators should keep for the horses track. To the east lies the Stracphain plain and further over, the South Shropshire hills while to the west (when the view is not hidden by conifers) lie the Welsh hills.

Leaving the Racecourse Car Park, turn left along the wide track and follow the bend round towards the ruined granstand. Before reaching it you will see, on the track, a two headed stone horse. There is a small wind on padlock to your right. Crab-apple and rowan trees are colourful in the autumn. This is the broadest part of the grassy track. There is a scattering of houses to your left.

The course narrows somewhat as it crosses two rough lanes linking the road on your right to the houses. You then reach a farm track with a pond on your left before you cross the road leading from Oswestry in to Wales. At this point, 1,000 feet above sea level, there used to be chains slung across the road when racing took place, the house on the right still being known as Chains Cottage.

Once over the road you have reached the northern part of the figure of eight circuit, with the Selyfryn road on your left. The track swings to the right as you pass a house - once a chapel - and another pond, likely to be dry in summer. When the road swings round again to your right at the top of the figure of eight you are half way by a seat. As you walk south, the views over both Wales and England are fine. You pass Chains Cottage again - cross the Oswestry Road once more and take the left fork after crossing the farm track. You pass some fine beaches on your left and so reach the Racecourse Car Park once again.



Walk No. 2: The Racecourse to Candy
(Using the Ofra's Dyke Path, at least a 3 hour walk)
From the Car Park on the Racecourse go left along the race track. At the edge of the wood there is a five barred gate & stile marked with the Ofra's Dyke acronym sign. The track goes downhill to another stile. Then on half a mile to another gateway on your right. Go through the gate. There are three paths joining here. Take the top path on your left. Keep on until the path goes downwards bringing you over a small stile with a house on your right. A few yards further on you will come to a bridge with a small cottage on your left. DO NOT CROSS THE BRIDGE but continue along the lane. After about a mile you turn left on to the road.
Continue on this road for about 1/2 mile passing the reservoir on your right. Stay on this road until you finally reach the Racecourse Car Park from which you started.

Walk No. 3: Bluebell Wood and Bron Goll, a 1 1/2 hour walk.
Remember this is a working farm and try to keep to the permitted paths. From the Village Hall Car Park, cross the main road and go up the lane sign-posted to Croesos Bach.
Near the top of the rise, where there is a farm track to Cymynion you turn left to a riding stable. There is a marked footpath stile on your left. This path takes you downhill to a riding stable.
There is a footpath starting opposite the stables. The path veers left across a field to a five barred gate. After a hundred yards or so in the wood, you turn 90 degrees right, immediately after a pleasant enclosure. This way crosses uphill towards a stile marked with a footpath roundel. Then across more or less level ground, follow the footpath markers to the ruined Bron Goll farm. From there, again following footpath markers, work round the farm buildings to the right and then to the left to reach an uphill straight path. At the top of this, there is a field which you cross half left uphill. Then over a stile you aim for a lane between the farms and Rhydyceasu. Here you turn right.
After passing the turning on your left to Middle Cymynion, you will see on your right a standing stone. The lane you are on makes an s-bend, passes the first footpath you took on this walk to bring you down to the Village Hall.



Walk No. 4: The Limestone Ridge
From the Village Hall, take the lane ahead of you, sign-posted to Croesos Bach which passes a five barred gate on your right by the turn for Pen y Dyffryn. Continue straight on and uphill, the way curving past half a dozen young ash trees and so to a disused sub-station on your right. Just past this small brick building there is a five barred gate with a footpath sign. Go along this fenced green lane which gradually rises and becomes rocky and sometimes muddy under foot.
Look for an iron five barred gate on your right with a stone stepped stile marked with a footpath roundel. Once over, continue on and down, crossing half left a large open field to a gate again marked footpath.
From here continue along the hedge, gradually upward while the view opens over the woods below to the valley, copying the Oswestry to Llansilin Road. Keep to the top of the limestone ridge for the best views of the Berwyn Mountains. A little further on, towards a hedge at right angles there is curious small rounded depression where the limestone has given way on the ridge itself. When you get near the hedge look down it on the left for a rocky site. Once over it, if you bear right through the remains of the hedge you will find a wooden bench well placed for the view. The ground falls down to where there is a stile which shows the way to a permissive path down which, to the right, you will reach Pen y Dyffryn Hotel and the Village Hall.



Please Note: Walkers attempting the walks shown and described on the map, do so at their own risk. Every attempt has been made to confirm information shown and to obtain the permission of the landowners or tenants of the ground concerned. The guide is intended as just a bit of fun to increase the enjoyment of our countryside. A useful aid is the OS Explorer map No. 240.

Remember you may be on working farmland and observe the Country Code. Keep to the footpaths. Leave all gates open or closed as you find them. Guard against danger of fire. Take your litter home. Do not interfere with or damage livestock or crops. Do not damage, destroy or remove wild life, flowers, fruit or plants. Keep your dog on a lead. Avoid all machinery, in use or otherwise.

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Heritage Lottery Fund
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Walk No. 5: From the Village Hall to Llansilin
(At least a 4 hour walk across varied terrain. Take a packed lunch and thermos - the pub may not be open at Llansilin. Caution. When passing through the woods do not stray onto the ground occupied by the firing range and/or firing target pits.)
From the Village Hall cross the main road and take the lane to Croesos Bach. This reaches the limestone walk as described in walk No. 4. After passing the bench marked in that walk, you aim for the long field. After passing Penre Gair Uchaf, turn right at metalled lane. This brings you to Penre Gair Issa which you keep on your left. After this you follow the footpath, past a small reservoir and two spot heights, 322 and 242, shown on the OS map. The map will be useful here as the track is not always distinct and there are wet areas. The track becomes clear again to take you down to a metalled road where you turn right. After a short walk the road turns left, passing the farm 'Pen y Coed'. Continue along over a bridge and eventually to Llansilin. At the crossroads turn left to the Wynnstay pub.
To return from Llansilin take the same lane to 'Pen y Coed' and past there turn left along a bridle way. There is a Rifle Range, in use sometimes, especially at weekends. If no red flag is flying, continue along the bridle way, past 'Pen y Coed y Gaer' (on your right) and so in about a mile to 'Tan y Gae'. There the bridle way joins a metalled road and bears right uphill. Here you are in Rhydyceasu Woods. Continue through the conifers, an easy mile walking to Pen y Dyffryn Hotel and so straight on for the Village Hall.
BUT if the red flag is flying at the range, and/or there are sounds of gunfire, do not continue along the bridle way past 'Pen y Coed'. Instead take the side turn to the left along an old farm track which can be wet. You can then ford the River Cynllyn, unless the footbridge is repaired, to reach the main road where you turn right. The road is narrow, beware of traffic, then on your right you pass Bwmch y Rhw an old farmhouse. Next on the left is Bryn Coch Issa, with a prominent conservatory. Opposite a small car park on your right. Go through the gate and so along a grassy permissive track to Rhydyceasu Woods. This will lead you over the stream and to the Village Hall.

Walk No. 6: Round the Rail 2 hours 'dewside' time
Like most walks from this village, the route starts uphill. Go up Jack's Lane (Fford Celyn y Mael) by the side of the Village Hall. After a bit you pass a tree on the right and then your road goes downhill for a short space to a massive holly tree on your left (opposite the turn to the farm, Celyn y Mael). Just past the holly tree is a footpath sign. Cross over the stile and follow up the valley. When you reach the end you will see a lone footpath post pointing downhill through a grassy patch (usually) by sheep. There is one brief muddy patch to negotiate. The track leads to the Rhydyceasu to Rhivakes road and opposite is the entry to a Nursery Bryn Hafod. Turn right along the road, following a opening to the Chapel. Then you turn left, after the Chapel, along a cart track, uphill. This section has four right-angled bends. Then at the T-junction with the Rhydyceasu to Rhivakes road, you can turn left for the Village Hall, downhill all the way, with good views.

Walk No. 7: A Ledrod Round - 1 1/4 hours.
From the Hall, cross over the main road and take the lane past Pen y Dyffryn Hotel into Rhydyceasu Woods. Cross the road where there is an open space with three views ahead. Take the right hand one leading downhill to the River Cynllyn, cross bridge and then go straight on through a five barred gate into a sheep field. The track takes you to the Llansilin road near Bryn Coch Issa. Turn left and go past Bwmch y Rhw.
You pass the rifle range on your left, then take a narrow lane to your right, through the Ledrod area. A little further on, take the right fork uphill past another old farm, Tyn y Colyn. Continue on the lane, gradually uphill through sheep country until they way reaches a mini - crossroads, which we call the Bwch. There you turn right for a downhill walk of about a mile, above the Cynllyn and facing the Racecourse hills, to reach Rhydyceasu, where you turn left across the bridge, keeping the traffic island and telephone box on your left and go straight ahead for the Village Hall.

Walk No. 8: The Red Gate Round 2+ hours
From the Village Hall, take Jack's Lane (Fford Celyn y Mael) which goes uphill, past the parking area and garden. There is a line here on the left. After a short downhill stretch there is a large old holly tree on the left where you continue on past the turn for Celyn y Mael Farm. Soon the metalled lane turns into a cart track ('Dangerous for Vehicles' noticed) and ditches steeply. If you want an excuse for a breather, there are two tall views on your left.
Once on the level top, there is a row of newly planted poplars along the right hand side of the lane and backdowns in late summer. There is a red gate sign pointing left, which you ignore. You start a gradual climb for half a mile or so to the red gate where the view down towards the Berwyns opens up.
After going through the gate, the way veers right and shortly turns 90 degrees to the left. Follow this up to the gate ahead and turn left down the stony track, go over the stream on the footbridge, near near a curious large boulder (Gwaith y Bouldier). PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS WORKING FARM LAND AND LEAVE GATES AS YOU FIND THEM.

Walk No. 9: Pen y Gwely Reservoir - 3 hours
The first part of the walk is described in walk No. 6. Take Jack's Lane (Fford Celyn y Mael) to the Red Gate and so on to the next three barred gate. At this crossing of lanes, go on for half a mile and look for a well defined path off left. This turns round the woods surrounding the reservoir and clockwise until you come to a grove of trees. Continue to the far end and near the dam.
The path takes a right-angled turn behind the old farm, 'Ty Uchaf' after half a mile or less you have sharp left, down the hill to reach the Rhydyceasu to Rhivakes road. Turn left here, passing the newly made ponds on your right. At the minor cross road for the farm Bwch y Doggy, spot height 318, turn right. Follow this line past a house at spot height 334, going gradually uphill to reach spot height 356. Bwch y Doggy, the road from Rhydyceasu to Rhivakes.
Turn left here for Rhydyceasu, with a series of views over the Cynllyn Valley. It is a downhill walk of 1 1/2 miles down a quiet lane. When you reach the village cross the bridge, and so on to the Village Hall.

Walk No. 10: Ofra's Dyke Path
The Ofra's Dyke Path crosses our parish from the south where a bridge crosses the River Meid to the Caerdy Woods and follows Walk No. 2 and continues to Caerdy y Bryn on the farm.
Walk No. 11: Cain Coch Walk
Take the landscape road from Liswat Bridge to Caerdy y Bryn, which you pass on your right, and turn left a few paces on. Almost immediately, turn right at sign to Ledrodau. Approximately one mile on, after the road swings left you will see a gate, on your left. In a lay-by with a sign 'Walkers Welcome' and you will see woods. Marked on the map as a path for specific walks at a future date. No actual sign will be erected for Cain Coch Woods.

