

Up to 8 km (5 miles) 3 1/2 hours



LLYWFI VALLEY WALK 4

4 Darren y Bannau: This area was once the site of small mines which extracted coal and iron from the seams here. Previous to this the site was a shepherd's homestead.

Continue along the road as it winds its way downhill to the leave the forestry plantation. The road gradually narrows and eventually joins a narrow tarmac path near the site of an old railway bridge.



Dunraven Forest

Follow the path into and along Pleasant View. Turn right into Greenfield Terrace and continue along the road crossing Lloyd Street and Wesley Street. Descending down the hill you will also pass the start of the community route known as David Lloyd Way on your left as you head towards the road junction.



Red Kite

5 Caerau Library. This is the site of the former Caerau Library or locally known as the miner's institute which acted as a library and recreational meeting place for all miners in the Llyfni Valley. The Foundation stones were laid in July 1904 and it was subsequently opened by the wife of the Manager of the Caerau Colliery. Due to the popularity of the Library a new wing was opened in 1925, but more recently was damaged by fire in July 1984 and was demolished shortly afterwards.



Views looking towards Garth and Cwmfellin

Car Parking

There is parking provision at the following:

- On-street parking in Maesteg
- Car Park on Llyfni Road which is free and covered by CCTV 24 hours a day

Accommodation

To make a reservation or to obtain information on accommodation contact one of the 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 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**

Acknowledgements

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- Barrie Evans
- Roy Meredith
- Gary Llewellyn



Public Transport

For further information on bus times and service numbers telephone Bridgend County Borough Council's, Public Transport Section on **01656 642559** or the Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** **www.traveline.info**



Maesteg Council Offices

Countryside Code

RESPECT PROTECT ENJOY



- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Follow the Countryside Code wherever you go. You will get the best out of the countryside and help to maintain it now and for the future.

Advice and Information

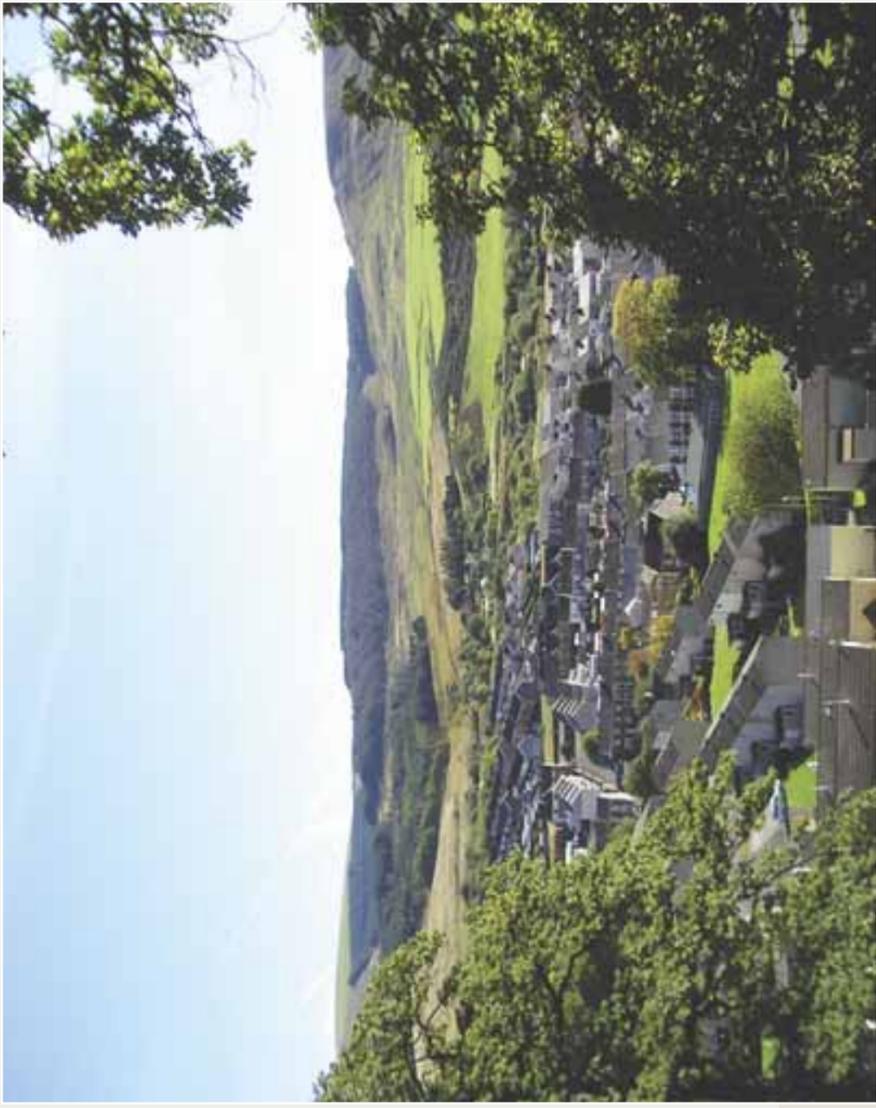
The going can be steep and may be wet and slippery in places with some stiles to climb. Remember to wear suitable clothes and good shoes/boots and take food and drink with you and be prepared to get fit! Always follow the Countryside Code. When you are walking on minor roads keep to the right and make 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 Walk logo that will be situated on stiles, gates and posts along the route. Directional way marks with arrows will assist you as to which direction to walk in once you are on a public right of way. We also recommend you refer to the OS Explorer Map 166 Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil.



Caerwen from Caerau Colliery

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, Communities Directorate, Morien House, Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3SH (Telephone **01656 642553** or **01656 642593**) or by e-mail at **rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk**



Caerau

6 Caerau. This literally translated means fortified defences and is a former mining village. The village grew rapidly after the opening of Caerau Colliery in

1890. The colliery consisted of three shafts North, South and No. 3 Pits and employed 2,400 men at its peak in the early 1920s. The mine was closed in 1977.

The village has a regular bus link to connect with the Maesteg railway station as the village used to have its own railway station.

Turn left at the junction and make your way to the bus stop and shelter opposite the Navigation hotel in Caerau.

Llynfi Valley Walk 4

Up to 8km (5 miles) 3 1/2 Hours

This leaflet describes a walk from Maesteg Station to Caerau through the Llynfi Valley countryside and requires you to make your own way back to your starting point. The route is approximately 8km (5 miles). The walk should take approximately 3 to 3 1/2 hours to complete but you should allow a bit more time to enjoy the views of the countryside. The route uses a combination of maintainable highway, public footpaths and public bridleway.

For convenience the directions below are written with Maesteg Station as the starting point. You could, however, equally start from any point along the route, and if travelling in the opposite direction, simply reverse all directions. There is also a link to Llynfi Valley Walks 1 and 5 from here.



Garth Hill from Margam Mountain

Leave Maesteg Station by the Ramped Walkway, cross the car park and head for the car park exit through a metal gate leading to a rough track.

Follow the track to the paved road and turn left under the railway bridge and then turn right into Harvey Street and Lewis Road. Head towards the Crown Hotel and follow the road to the left leading uphill on Crown Road to the junction with Cwmddu Road and Maesteg Cemetery Car Park.

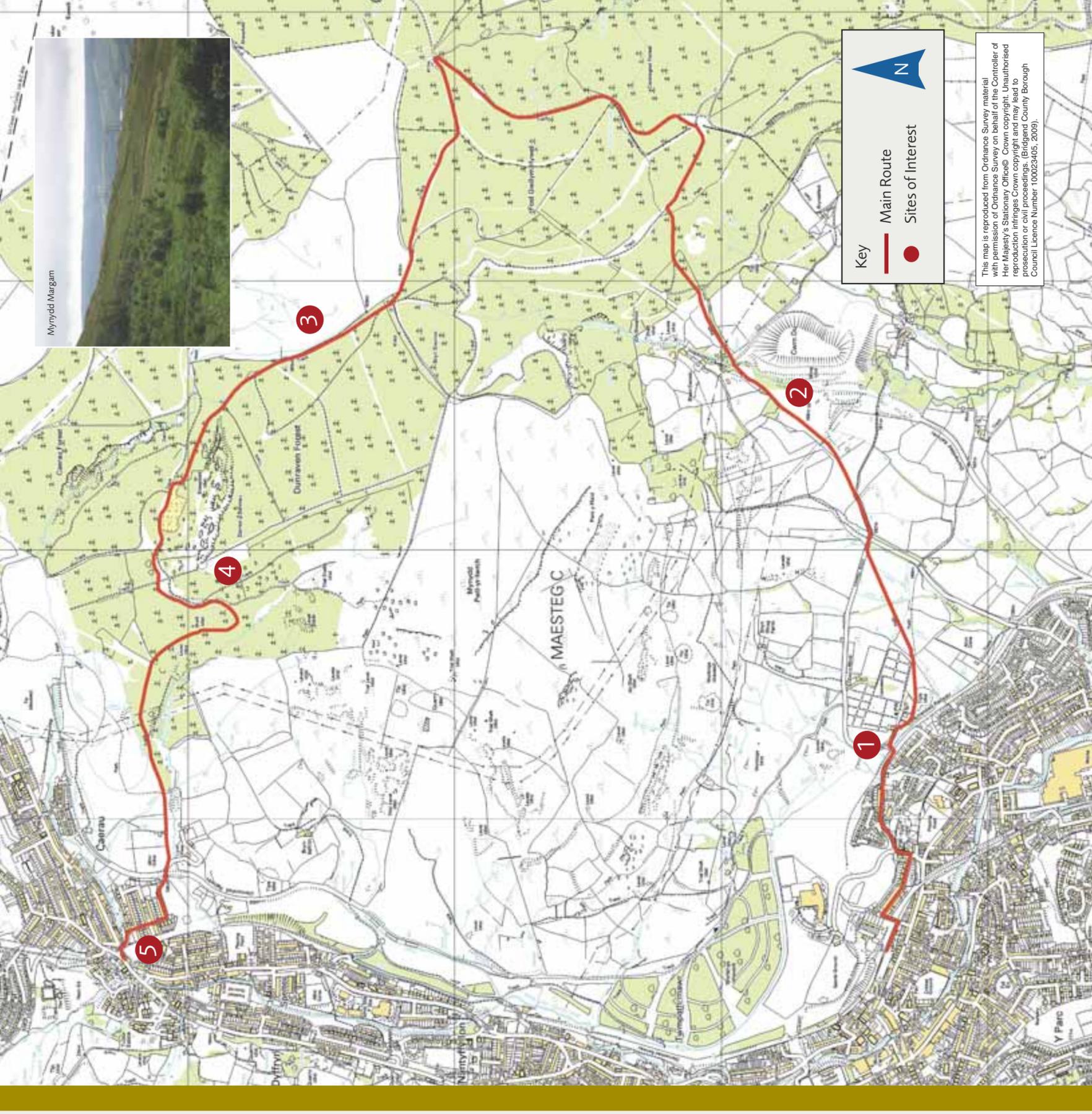
1 Maesteg Cemetery was provided by the Llangynwyd Burial Board and the ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Llandaff in October 1883. The site was originally 4 acres in size and cost £2,500 to create. Today the cemetery is in the process of being expanded as they are short of space in the original cemetery grounds.



Edge of the St. John's forestry

At this junction turn right into the cemetery car park and head for the kissing gate at the east end of the car park. Pass through the gate and follow the well defined footpath around the edge of the Cemetery. Follow the waymark arrows over a stile into a small wooded area. Continue to follow the well defined path over a stile and through a kissing gate before exiting onto the public highway. On joining the highway turn right and ignoring the junction on your right continue along the highway as it passes the entrance to Cwmddu Canol Farm and the site of the Old St Johns Colliery.

2 St Johns Colliery On the 24th May 1974 Prince Charles toured the Colliery and underground workings, where, it is believed the Prince crawled along a coal face that was only 3ft 6 ins in height. The Colliery closed on the 22nd November 1985.



Myrddal Margam

Key

— Main Route

● Sites of Interest



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Continue along the road as it changes from tarmac to a rough surface and head for a metal gate. Once through the gate look immediately to your left and you will see a stile in the fence line.

Cross the stile and ascend the hill to a second and eventually a third stile on the edge of the forestry plantation. Following the way marks turn left and then immediately right to follow a fairly steep climb in-between the trees, until you reach a forest track. Bear right and continue on this track until you reach an even wider forestry road. Turn right and



Caerwen from Darren-y-Bannau

continue to climb for approximately 600 metres. As the path bears left and levels off the path exits from in-between the trees onto a well defined forestry road.

Turn left follow the gently climbing road ignoring all junctions on your left and right. As you reach the brow of the road and start to descend continue ahead until you reach a Y junction in the road.

VIEWPOINT! From here the Croeserw Estate can be seen and views may be seen across Neath Port Talbot.

3 Croeserw. Croeserw where the lip of the Afan Valley meets the upper reaches of the Llynfi Valley and is surrounded on all sides by hills and mountains. It is known locally as 'Little Switzerland', and many of the houses on the hill bear the distinctive Swiss-chalet-style wide gables and long sloping roofs.

Take the left hand fork and continue to descend for 600 metres. On arrival at the next major junction bear right, continuing along the road where you



Upper St. John's forestry

will pass a bench on your right and within a short distance you will reach a T junction.

Turn left at the junction and follow the well defined road as it contours round Darren y Bannau.

VIEWPOINT! From here views of the Upper Llynfi Valley can be seen. Buzzards and Red Kite birds of Prey are often seen patrolling in this area.