



St Mary's Church
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

Walk Nos. 20, 21 & 22, Llanarfau The Bonvilston Circulars

This leaflet offers three walks in the Bonvilston area. The core walk is the Bonvilston Circular (No. 21), which as its name implies takes the walker around the village. For those who prefer a shorter walk there is the Bonvilston Local (No. 20). For the more energetic there is an Extended walk (No. 22).

Most of these walk routes make use of the Vale's central ridge so are elevated, around 300 - 400 ft above sea level, and as a consequence they offer superb views, both to the north and south. There are many other attractions in the walks. They include picturesque small lakes, animal collections, sites of historical interest, attractive woodland and three licensed premises that provide food. Only on the extended walk are there any significant climbs. Users of the Explorer 151 map will find other short walks available in the locality.

Distance: Walk 21 is just over 5 miles long; the others are 3½ and 7½ miles respectively.

Map: OS Explorer 151

Parking: The Red Lion or Aubrey Arms (Route guide starts at Red Lion).

Public Transport: Cardiff - Bridgend route X2.

Refreshments: at the licensed premises and village shop.

Toilets: those at refreshment points, none on out-of-village routes.

START: In this Guide The Red Lion; alternatively The Aubrey Arms, The Old Post or Warren Mill Farm (on extended walk).



past a house that you soon reach on the right of the drive, those doing the Circular Walk will turn right over a stile. {Those doing the Local Walk should now go on to this colour text}.

On the Circular Walk proceed to a stile in the lower right hand corner of the subsequent field and then keeping in the same general direction cross another two stiles. These take you into a field with paddocks. Continue downhill through the gated paddocks, with the hedge on your right, to a stile that takes you into the last field of this series. Cross it to leave via a double stone and timber stile. Now proceed across the commercial premises to a stile on the A 48.

Turn left and cross the road to turn right into the minor road immediately before the Aubrey Arms. Walk through a minor road junction to reach a Y junction. Cross over to a stile beside a gate and then proceed diagonally up, via stiles, to the top far corner of the field.

Continue over another stile and begin to go downhill keeping the buildings associated with an equestrian centre to your left. Continue straight ahead, keeping a small stone barn to your left, to traverse a long field to a gate at the bottom corner. Cross the driveway and continue over a small area of neglected, sometimes boggy, ground to a waymarked stile. Cross the next field to a gap in the hedge and then head for the gate in the bottom left hand corner of this second field. Turn left and with the hedge on your right walk on to a primitive stile that gives you access to a country road.

Turn left and proceed gently uphill, passing the entrance to Ty'n y Coed Farm, till you reach a gate on the right. Go through and then bear slightly left, across a small valley, aiming for a waymarked gate on the far side. Once through this head just left of a pylon to a gap in the far right hand field corner. Now swing left to a stile in the hedgerow and cross a narrow field to another stile and sleeper bridge. Continue in the same direction passing under a line of telephone wires to a stile in the far right hand corner. Turn right here and walk on, with a hedge on your left, to a stile. Turn left and head straight on to the stile on the far side of the next field. Finally follow the often nettled path to the main A 48 road. Cross it to the starting point.



Pony and Llama
Photograph © G. Woosnam

PLACES OF INTEREST

① Bonvilston

The name Bonvilston derives from that of a Norman nobleman, Simon de Bonville. Interestingly the Welsh version, Tresimwn, is based on his Christian name. Going back in time the village was often referred to as Bolston

② St Mary's Church

This was almost entirely rebuilt in 1863. It is an example of the Victorian revival of the Early English style of architecture. The Bassett and Aubrey families who had long associations with this area provided much of the funding for this rebuilding. The early 20th century interior woodwork refurbishment was funded by the Brain family, the famous Cardiff brewers.

③ Caerwigau Isaf

This is a Grade II listed building. It is founded on a Manor House built in Tudor times. The land here was fertile and was farmed for a time in the Middle Ages by monks from Margam Abbey possibly based at the old moated site in the nearby woods.

④ Warren Mill Farm

Here there is a fishery and an animal farm. The fishery lake was created about 200 years ago when a tributary of the Ely was dammed to provide waterpower for the mill. The farm has a varied range of animals including llamas, wallabies and guinea fowl. It is also sometimes possible to obtain refreshments here.

⑤ Aubrey Arms

This pub/restaurant probably derives its name from the Aubrey family. This family had a long association with this area from the 17th century, when the first baronet of Llantrithyd, Sir John Aubrey was created, to 1856 when the seventh and last baronet died childless. In the 17th century the family lived in what was then a magnificent house and grounds, Plas Llantrithyd (in Llantrithyd). This is now in a ruinous state. The nearby small church contains some interesting items.

⑥ Liege Manor

This is a prestigious riding school. According to a fairly recent 'Times' review, it is one of the top eight riding schools in the U.K.

THE ROUTE

From the Red Lion car park turn left (east) on the A48 and soon left again into Maes y Ffynon. Continue north past the houses to take a stile on the right. This will bring you on to a well-defined, signed footpath that runs through the Cottrell golf course. When you reach the surfaced track near the 15th tee, ignore the subway to your right but walk on soon to reach a stile from which you carefully descend on to a minor road junction. Continue forward right, downhill, along the narrow but often busy Peterston road for almost exactly ¼ of a mile to a stile/gate on the left. Proceed slightly uphill, bearing right, to pass in front of an old piggery and then slightly downhill to reach a stile in the field's far bottom corner. *From this field, for a considerable distance onwards, you will be able to enjoy quite magnificent views; from Cardiff behind you to the east, to the hill country north of Bridgend to the west.*

Continue in the same direction in

the next field to arrive at a stile in the hedge on your right. You should cross this and walk on the other side of the hedge in the same direction, crossing two minor stiles en route, to reach a third standard stile. Here you turn left and re enter the field you left some 50 yards back.

Now head uphill, drifting to the right, to arrive at a stile tucked away in a dogleg corner of the field. Once over this head across the next field, aiming just to the left of a house you will see ahead, to reach and cross a stile giving on to a road. Now cross the road into a lane to the left of the house and keeping to the same general direction cross two more stiles to enter a large field. Walk on, with a wood (Y Gaer) to your left and a pond to the right, through some young trees to cross, after more than ¼ mile, a stile in the field's corner and then in the next field reach a wire fence with two stiles. You will take the right hand stile for all three walks. If walking the **Extended Route (No 22)** you should

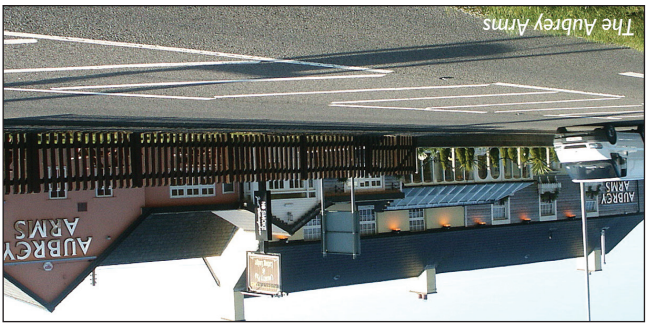
leave the commentary at this point and follow the **green text** below.

On the Circular (No 21) and Local (No 20) walks, you now head forward slightly right keeping the small reservoir to your left to cross another stile. Proceed to the far right hand corner of the next field to reach two gates separated by an often muddy track and then, bearing slightly left, go on to a third gate. Maintaining direction, follow a drive (house to your left) to quickly leave it via another gate on the right. Now continue through two fields, separated by a waymarked gate, passing two picturesque small lakes on your right. You will then arrive at a narrow belt of trees and a stile that takes you on to a house (Crossways) and minor road junction. Pass in front of the house to reach a stile on the other side of the road.

You now negotiate a number of waymarked stiles/gates through an area of paddocks to reach the drive of Maerdy Newydd Farm. Here turn sharp left away from the farm. *Just



Photograph © G. Woosnam



Photograph © G. Woosnam

Local Walk

Continue along the Drive until you reach and cross a country lane. Cross the stile in front of you to enter a field. Proceed through this field and, via an intervening stile, a second field to surmount a stepped gate on to a minor road. Turn right and then quickly left into a Drive marked 'Lillypot'. You soon reach a fork. Here keep to the right (Great Barn sign) to pass in front of the Guest House going along a gravelled drive to an unusual stile on your right. Now turn sharp right to cross the main Drive. Take the right hand double gate and keeping to the field's left hedge line walk on downhill through a gap to reach a stile in the bottom left hand corner of the second field. Turn left and walk on hedge to your left to a stile on your left. Once over this head right and walk the length of the field with the hedge on your right to cross a stile and then straightaway a second stile on your right. Now, walk diagonally across this field to a stile in the bottom left hand corner. Take care as you make a rather tricky descent into the lane. Turn right, back into Bonvilston.

WALK FEATURES

- Bonvilston Village
- St Mary's Church
- Caerwigau Isaf
- Warren Mill Farm
- Aubrey Arms
- Liege Manor Riding School
- Magnificent Views



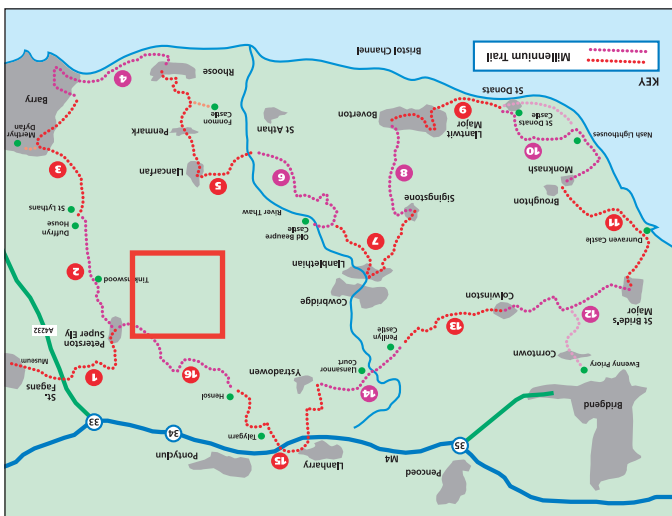
Photograph © G. Woosnam

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- 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

Valeways has published a guide to the Millennium Heritage Trail. This colourful book describes the 16 sections which make up the Trail and comes in a package with 16 separate A3 maps. Information on purchasing the guide can be obtained by contacting Valeways.

The Trail is split into 16 easy to follow sections, each of which can be walked within a few hours. The surroundings are diverse, often spectacular and steeped in history. Valeways' Millennium Heritage Trail covers a distance of over 100km, spanning over 6,000 years of history. It wends its way through a variety of beautiful landscapes. At its northern edge there are panoramic vistas of the Blaenau Morgannwg, while in the south it skirts a spectacular cliffed coastline.



WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



Valeways is a registered charity working in partnership with the community to reopen existing footpaths to create a network of enjoyable circular walks across the Vale of Glamorgan, linking towns and villages to the surrounding countryside and points of interest. We are indebted to the many volunteers who give up their time freely to provide this walk for your enjoyment.



Valeways Partnership - Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Countryside Council for Wales for their continued support.

Cefnogwyd gan Supported by



Valeways, Unit 7, Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry CF62 9DA

Telephone: 01446 749000
E-mail: info@valeways.org.uk
Website: www.valeways.org.uk

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Photograph © G. Woosnam

Extended Walk

Turn right at the right hand stile and head downhill on a fairly direct route through picturesque scenery, crossing a sequence of stiles to reach Caerwigau Isaf. Keep to the right of the property going through its grounds and driveway to reach a road. (Always take extra care when passing through residential property as here). Now turn left and soon left again along a minor road. Then turn left again at a gate and narrow stile. Now follow the subsequent track, uphill, going slightly right at a small steeper bridge, to reach a multi stepped stile. Walk on, uphill, through two fields (often electric fences here), keeping to the right of a house, to reach a final stile that leads you into a less interrupted field. Continue in the same direction over two more stiles, then bear left for a short distance before turning right away from the house that is to your left, to reach the end of the drive and a road. Turn right here, but soon turn left off the road just short of Warren Mill Animal Farm and Fishing Ponds. Follow the track uphill to pass in front of Warren Hill Farm. Cross over the stile and turn left, downhill with the hedge on your left, to a gate. This takes you onto a wide forest track for some 600 yards to a country lane. Cross it and a subsequent small paddock, via a stile and gate, into a large field. Keeping roughly to its left perimeter head for the buildings on the near horizon, eventually walking parallel to the property's garden boundary through recently planted conifers. You will reach a gate on your left. Go through and follow the surfaced drive through Maerdy Newydd farm and then gently uphill along the drive to the point where a stile comes in from the left. You now follow the route commentary for the Circular Walk above.*

Walk Nos. 20, 21 & 22, Llanccarfan

The Bonvilston Circulars

Distance: 5, 3 1/2 or 7/2 miles.



Photograph © M. Gray



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