

# Newtown Circular Walks –

## No. 8. Llanllwchaiarn lollipop walk

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This walk starts and finishes at the Town Clock at the intersection of Broad, High and Severn Streets. It is perhaps more accurately described as a lollipop than a circuit because it includes a stretch of the canal path/Severn way at its beginning and end. It is rated as easy and much of it is on quiet tracks, over open fields and through woods. All of the gates are in good condition and there are only two low stiles to negotiate. Although there is only one footpath sign and two fingerposts, the route is very clear and easy to follow. The walk takes you out into delightful countryside right from the centre of town and the views are magnificent.

Distance: 4.3 miles

Timing: Around 2 hours

### Directions

From the Barclays building beneath the Town Clock (1), walk along Severn Street and cross Severn Square to the Halfpenny Bridge crossing the River Severn. This footbridge replaces the original toll bridge that stood some 40m upstream and was regularly swept away by the River Severn. Cross the bridge, turn right onto the dirt path along the top of the bank, ignoring the steps on your left. Dip down to the tarmac path to pass under Cambrian Bridge and continue along the path, through a gate and past the 'Old Pump House' on your right. The Pump House took water from the Severn to supply the head of the canal. It was originally operated by a water wheel, later by steam and eventually by a diesel engine. It ceased operation in the 1940s.

Continue along the paved footpath passing a small car park at a connection to the Llanllwchaiarn to Aberbechan road (2). There is a footpath sign there stating 1.5 km to Newtown, 2.2 km to Pwll Penarth Nature Reserve and 7.5 km to Abermule. The footpath that you are following is part of the Severn Way long distance path and also the 81 National Cycle Trail. Continue under a low bridge to pass Llanllwchaiarn church on your left. This church was built in 1814 on a site dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and has a famous arts and crafts stained glass window and a carved rood screen. Unfortunately, the church is rarely open except for bi-weekly services.

The path continues to follow the line of the old canal and is now close to the River Severn on your right. At the next small car park a footpath sign states 2.0 km to Newtown, 1.7 km to Pwll Penarth Nature Reserve (3). Leave the canal path and instead join the road here, turning right to continue in the same direction as you were heading. The cottage Craig Wen is on the road at this junction. They have a lovely vegetable patch on the canal side of the road. The road runs parallel and very close to the path you just left. Take the first left turn up an unpaved track near a quarry (4) through a gate (usually open) and start the long, easy climb up along the edge of the beech wood. You will shortly pass wooden cabins called The Beeches. At the top the track comes out of the wood on to a level section with wonderful views over the river and the Pwll Penarth Nature Reserve below you.

You will then see farm buildings ahead of you, this is Fron-Dolfor (5). Turn left on the track just before the farm buildings and follow it around past the back of the barn past a collection of vintage tractors. It brings you to a farm gate, go through and follow the farm track up into

the field. At the top of the rise the field opens out and you can see the obvious farm gate across the field to your left. Go through this gate and continue straight ahead along the line of the fenced hedge on your left. There are now magnificent views over the rolling hills to the north. Just before you reach a large oak tree (6) and the edge of a fence line swerve left (without leaving the field), and follow the obvious sheep track across the open field to another gate. Go through (the gate is off and lying nearby) and veer right, heading towards the obvious black and white abandoned house and red brick farmhouse, Tynybitfel. At the far bottom corner of this field go through the gate and turn left on to the track that takes you past Tynybitfel on to the Llanllwchaiarn to Aberbechan road. Turn right onto the road and head downhill (7). Take care here since this is a blind corner and the traffic coming up from Aberbechan is often travelling very fast. You are only on this road very briefly but the left side is probably safer on the blind bend.

After a short distance turn left up a lane marked with a sign saying Lower Gwestydd Farmhouse. Pass the delightful white cottages, Garn Cottage and Garn Lodge, on the right, then turn left on an unpaved track with a footpath fingerpost at the start. Follow this track through a gate and down to the cottage, Fron-las. Pass the house, taking the small detour on the outside of the short hedge on the right of the cottage (8). You then reach a small paddock which you cross to the far left corner to a stile and footpath sign. Enter the wood over the stile. Follow the footpath down over a bridge and continue until the field on your left meets another wood at a second stile and fingerpost on your left. Cross this stile and follow the footpath down through the wood until you reach the housing development. Follow the path as it passes behind the houses in front of you to access Lon Coed y Creigiau (Rock Wood Drive) (9). This brings you back to the Llanllwchaiarn road opposite the church. Turn right on the pavement and rejoin the Severn Way on your left where the pavement ends. You can now retrace your steps to the Halfpenny Bridge, along Severn Street back to the Town Clock.

