



Porthkerry Park

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan County Council



Cardiff Wales Airport

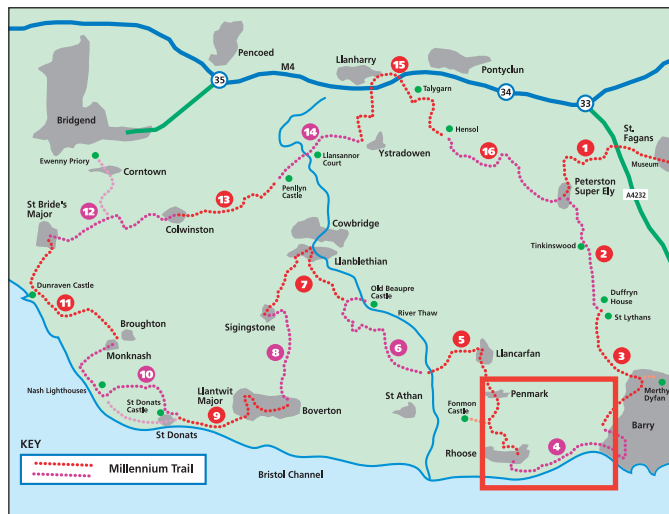
Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan County Council



Sculptures at Rhoose Point

Photograph © G. Woosnam

WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



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.

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.

Those who have never visited this part of Wales will enjoy walking through fertile, lowland countryside adjoining the spectacular Heritage Coast with its beautiful beaches. The route includes many fascinating historic features, from prehistoric burial chambers to magnificent castles, churches and mansions.

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. The guide can be obtained from Valeways for £8.49 including post and packing.



Footpath at Penmark

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan County Council



Housing and Lake at Rhoose Point

Photograph © G. Woosnam

WALK FEATURES

- Porthkerry Park
- Rhoose Point and Sea Views
- The Bulwarks Earthworks
- Cardiff Wales Airport
- Penmark Castle and Church
- Country Views



Obelisk marking the most southerly point in Wales

Photograph © V. Warlow

FOLLOW THE WALKER'S CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire
 - Fasten all gates
- Keep all dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths on farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls
 - Take your litter home
- Protect all wildlife, plants and trees



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



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Walk No. 42, Rhoose & Penmark

Country Park to Norman Village

Distance: 9 miles.

West Curtain Wall of Penmark Castle



Rhoose Point during development

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan County Council

Walk No. 42 Rhoose & Penmark Country Park to a Norman Village

Key Features of Walk Early medieval Church & Castle; Country Park; Cliffed coastline; Most Southerly point in Wales; Cardiff International Airport.

Distance 9 miles (basic route).

Map OS Explorer 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

Parking Ample at Porthkerry Park (GR 08/09 66/67); Limited roadside at Rhoose (0666). Restricted at Penmark(0568).

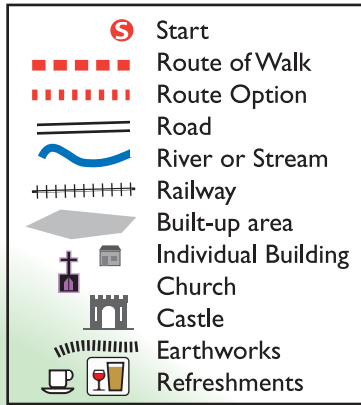
Public Transport Buses to Barry and Rhoose, train to Barry.

Refreshments Six Bells, Penmark; Café, Porthkerry Park; Shop and Highwayman, Rhoose.

Toilets Public conveniences at Porthkerry Park and at some of the refreshment locations.

START The café in Porthkerry Park.

SCALE (APPROX):



where a surfaced track leads off to the left. Follow this and turn right when you reach some farm gates. Continue along the now unsurfaced track, gently downhill, until you reach a stile adjacent to a field gate on the left. Cross the field, lengthways, to a stream and stile. Cross the following field, diverging slowly to the right from the hedge on the left, aiming for a clump of trees. Having reached the trees, move on to the stile immediately in front and head straight uphill, (farm outbuildings are to your right). Climb over another stile and move to the right hand side of the subsequent field. Staying on the right hand edge, walk through two more fields and their stiles to reach the main coast road.

Turn to the left for a short distance. Then cross the busy road to a stile opposite the Welford Court Guest House. Once over this double stile head to the right, keeping the mid-field telegraph post to your left. Bear left downhill in the next field (brambles and mud are sometimes hazards here). Cross the stile that you will reach on your right to enter an open field. Continue downhill. You will pass a metal bridge on your left. This offers a longer, but sometimes drier, route into Porthkerry Park (see broken line on map). A short distance further on, move to the left hand side of the stream and carry on downhill to cross a stile into a wooded area. (This area can be very muddy in wet weather). Cross the stream to enter Porthkerry Park via a newly constructed bridge. Proceed left along the path. Go under the viaduct to reach the Café, - your starting point.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Porthkerry Country Park

Start/ Finish: This is a pleasant area of meadows and woods very accessible from Barry. It has a pitch and putt area, a pebbly beach and a café. Its most prominent feature is its very late Victorian viaduct. This is 110 ft. high and has 20 arches. It carries the Vale railway line over the valley.

2 The Bulwarks

Earthworks of the Iron Age now consisting of overgrown banks and ditches. Its occupation extended into Roman Times as evidenced by the discovery of two Roman buildings in the 1968 excavations.

3 Rhoose Point Regeneration

Here 240 acres of land despoiled from 1913 onwards by quarrying and cement manufacture are being restored to worthwhile use. Housing, possibly a small golf course, the conservation of wildlife in the lakes that have formed in the quarry floors and the planting of lime tolerant vegetation are features being developed.

The fine sea cliffs are composed of Liassic limestone and shales. Here is the most southerly point on the mainland of Wales, marked with a Standing Stone and Stone Circle.

4 Cardiff International Airport

The fast growing and largest airport in Wales.

5 Penmark

The Church of St Mary lists its vicars back to 1242. The fact that it once lay within the curtain wall of the adjacent castle helps explain its size - rather large for its current population catchment.

The castle is 13th century arising out of an earlier wooden structure. It was built and inhabited by generations of the Norman De Umfraville family. On its western flank are the remains of a tower. The discovery of cannon balls in its vicinity has led to the theory that it was fired on by Cromwell during the Civil War.

THE ROUTE

1 From the café in Porthkerry Park head seaward along the path 1 then bear right across the open ground towards the coast and its pebbly beach. Take the cliff path, with its rather stiff but short climb through the woods, to reach a grassy field. To the right are the Bulwarks 2. Cross this to a gap in the hedge where you enter a caravan park. Turn left at the Drive and proceed westwards on it through the caravan park. Leaving the park follow the Drive, as it curves away, leftwards, from the road bridge you can see to the right. Then just before the ruined walls of old buildings, turn right, off the Drive and go back on yourself on a path that leads into scrubland. Follow this meandering path around with the new housing developments to your right.

Continue along the coastline, using the, in places, stepped path, until you reach the standing stone that denotes the most southerly

point in Wales 3. From here walk on, hugging the coast, until you reach a wooden footbridge. Here turn right and proceed inland, gently upslope, along a concrete path to reach a level crossing. After this continue along a street to reach the main road in Rhoose. The Spar store is to your left.

Now turn right and cross the road into Brendon View Road. Proceed along the pathway to reach another road (Reader's Way). Cross this to enter and follow another pathway. You then turn left on this pathway and follow it for about 3/4 mile as it works its way around the perimeter of the Cardiff International Airport 4. Eventually you emerge on to a road. You will see a pub, the Highwayman, a short distance away to the right of the road. Walk past the pub and turn right at the next road junction.

Just past where this road bends left, take the stile on the right hand side of the road. Cut straight across the field to a corner boundary of

the Airport. Walk on with the airport boundary to your right and landing lights to your left. Swing slightly to the left and head for a gap in the field boundary. Once through this continue across the field to reach a stile that leads to a road underpass. Immediately after the underpass climb a bank on the right to arrive at a stile. Carry on, with the road embankment to your right, for about a third of the field, before crossing it diagonally left to reach a stepped stile leading onto a road. Here turn right, downhill, around a bend to a stone stile on the left.

Walk up the slope to a waymark post and continue on a course that leads you to the top left hand corner of this long field. Cross the stile and follow a narrow path that leads you into a street (Croft John) and then onto the main road in Penmark.

Turn right noting the pub, church and castle ruins en route 5. Continue on the main road (ignore road entering from right and later, road from left) to reach a point



Rhoose Point before regeneration

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan County Council