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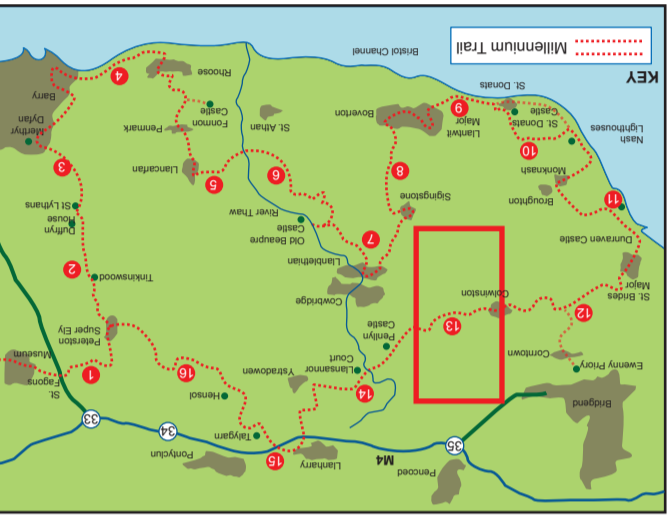
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Valeways has published a guide to the Millennium Heritage Trail. This colourful book describes the 16 sections which make up the Trail and comes in a package with 16 separate A3 maps. Information on purchasing the guide can be obtained by contacting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

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.



WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



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WALK FEATURES

- **St Michael's and All Angels**
 - The Sycamore Tree
 - Baptismal Pool
 - Pwll y Wrach
- **The Holy Trinity Church**
 - St Tydfil's
 - The Carne Arms
- **St Canna's Church**
 - Lead mine stack
 - St Mary Hill
 - Cwrt
- **St Mary's Church**
 - The Star Inn



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 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.

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Walks Nos. 11 (modified),
14 and 15 Cowbridge

The Six Village Walk

Distance: 3½, 5½, and 13 miles.



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Registered Charity No. 1062031

The Six Village Walk - Walks Nos. 11 (modified), 14 and 15 Cowbridge

The Vale of Glamorgan has many attractions ranging from its splendid coastline, its pleasant rolling landscape to its many sites of historical interest. However, for many it is its villages that have a special appeal with their churches, their inns, their varied housing styles and other features of historical interest. This walk allows you to visit six of them, or to be more precise five villages and two hamlets. The complete walk is almost thirteen miles long but there is ample scope for breaking this up for shorter walks. Some of these are shown on the map by the use of different colours.

Distances: Northern Circulars 3 and 4 miles; Southern Circular 5½ miles; whole walk 13 miles

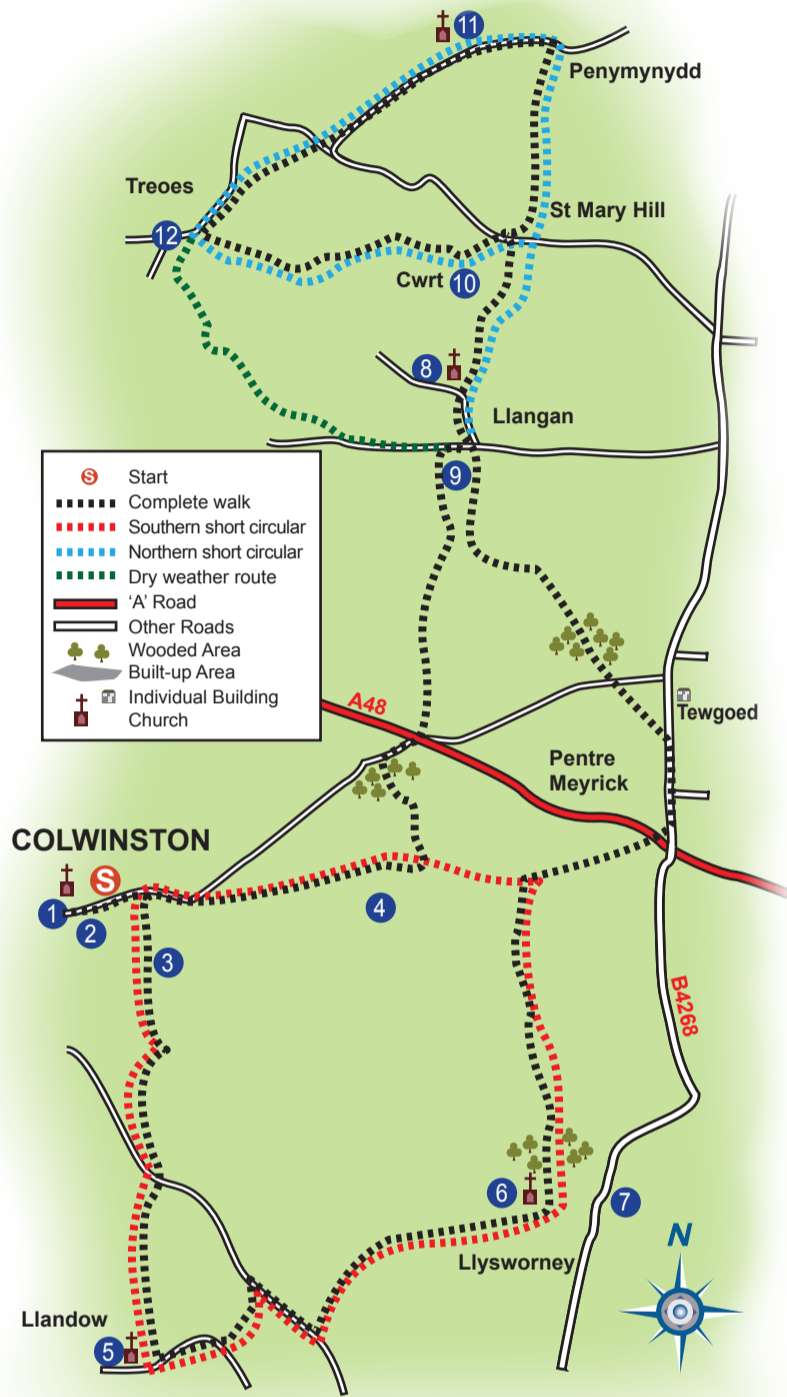
Map: OS Explorer 151.

Parking: Roadside in whichever village you start from; some car parks in Colwinston

Public transport: Bus services **V3** and **V4** operate over some parts of the route.

Refreshments: Sycamore Tree (Colwinston), Carne Arms (Llysworney), Star Inn (Treoos)

START: The Route Guide, below, starts at Colwinston (see map). Obviously as it is a circular walk, the start location can be the walker's choice.



Bear slightly right to find the next stile at the top of the slope. Cross the corner of the following field to a stile leading to a winding path through a recently established wood. Exiting the wood you see the next stile to your left. Once over this turn **right** and follow the rough lane that leads you to the A48 at Pentre Meyrick.

(If walking the southern shorter route turn left along the same rough lane which soon becomes an imposing tree-lined avenue. You will pass a stile on your right. This is the point where the main walk joins your route. So now go to the final paragraph of the main walk notes to complete your shorter walk.)

At Pentre Meyrick cross the A48 to walk on, northward, along the road signposted St Mary's Hotel and Golf Course, passing Cross Farm and then the road junction for Penlyn on your right. Soon you will reach a stile on your left. Cross the double stile and, in the field that follows, head just to the right of an island of trees visible on the near horizon.

You then reach a stile that takes you on to a quiet country lane. Cross the stile on its other side and walk on, bearing slightly left, to enter and then leave, via stiles, a more wooded area and enter an open field. Llangan can be seen directly ahead. Continue to the bottom left hand corner of this open field and turn left around a pond.

Go through a gate and follow a well-defined track for some 250 yards to reach an elevated stile in the hedge on your right. This takes you into a field where you head for a gap on the other side. Ahead you will see two stiles. Follow the route that they indicate and cross a third stile tucked into the right hand corner of the next field. Continue in the same direction along the hedge line to turn right at a stile that leads you to a broad track. Turn left to soon reach the main road.

Turn left and follow this road through Llangan to reach St Canna's Church on your right. Enter the churchyard (near by the Celtic Cross) and immediately turn right over a stone stile and then left as you move through a large field. Move to the right hand side of this field as you go downhill to the bridge over Nant Canna. Then take the stone stile directly ahead of you. Walk on with a hedge to your left, targeting a conspicuous dead tree some way ahead. Just before reaching this tree turn left and head up through a fairly large field to a gate that you will see just to the left of a house. This gives you on to a road. Turn right, then first left, then left again at the Coach House, quickly to turn right uphill along a clear track. Carry on along this track past three barns and over two stiles. Proceed on, ignoring the stile on the left, passing transmission towers to the right while keeping the hedge to your left to move onto a major track coming in from the right. Turn left to a roadside stile then turn left on the road to reach St Mary's Church to your right. Just past this church turn right at a stile and then left.

Walk on downhill through three fields keeping to the left hand edge of the first two but across the third to arrive at a stile that gives on to an entrenched road. Cross this road with care to a stile on the other side.

Walk on in a similar direction keeping above a rather sharp slope down to the right to bisect a line of trees in front of a farmhouse (Court Farm). Continue along a well defined, gated and stiled track and when you enter a wider area maintain direction along the left hand hedge to cross two stiles and reach the road. Now turn left. Soon you will pass the Treoos road sign and then, if walking the main walk, you should turn left at a stile adjacent to a gate. *Of course you may take the opportunity of refreshing yourself in the village or indeed of returning to Llangan using the alternative route (see map and route guide in this colour below). Note this route is boggy in places for much of the year.*

Once over this stile head forward, slightly right, to pass through a gap into a second field where you target a stile visible in this field's right hand corner. Go over this and turn left, keeping to the hedge line, to a double stile. Now turn slightly right and continue up the slope to a stile on the field's far boundary. Continue in the same direction to a stile in the right hand (eastern) corner of the next field. Now turn right to pass over a series of stiles and go through a gate. You then walk around the back and side of a property, Cwrt to reach a surfaced road.

Follow this for about 300 yards to reach the gate on the right that you crossed walking up from Llangan. Cross it and reverse the route guide given above to return to this village. This means walking down the field to a gap in its boundary. Then turn right along the hedgerow to a stone stile. Keep in same direction to cross the footbridge. Now walk up the field that follows to the stone stile in the top right hand corner that takes you into the churchyard. Once on the road outside the church turn left and follow the road to a junction. Turn right at the red telephone kiosk. Continue along this road as far as Preswylfa House.

Here you turn left down a surfaced lane.*

Just past the property named Manderley take the second track off to the right. Carry straight on via gates and stile, past a barn. You now begin to climb uphill along an almost straight route. Keep the field boundary to your right (ignore rectangular extension) and cross two single stiles to reach a double stile. Maintain direction across this final field to reach the A48 via a double stile.

Cross the main road directly to a minor road and continue heading south for some hundred yards to a stile on the left. This takes you through a narrow belt of woodland to a stile that leads into a field. Turn right and walk along the edge of the field. Soon it turns sharp right. Continue along the field's edge to the bottom of the field where you reach a stile and then a major track.

Here turn right and, with those walking the shorter southern option, follow the track and its Millennium Trail waymarks back to Colwinston. After crossing a cattle grid just before farm buildings, Pwll y Wrach bear right towards the first of a series of stiles. The fourth of these takes you left onto a wooded track, now obstructed by collapsed stone walls and nettles. So it is necessary to continue to the field edge, where you turn right and walk parallel to the official footpath into Colwinston. Continue through Colwinston to the START.

Alternative Dry Weather route.

Please note that the two easternmost fields of this route are often very boggy.

Continue along the road and take the first left (Nant Canna) to turn left again at a road junction. At the end of the row of houses take the stile on the right hand side of the road. Walk along the left hand side of this first field to a stile in the far left corner. Do exactly the same in the next field. This leads you into a smaller field which you cross to enter a larger field via a stile. Maintain your direction and you will reach a rather complex stile and ditch. Once over this continue forward, slightly right, to another stile that leads you into the final field. Here you head diagonally right to reach a gate that gives on to a road. Here turn left. Just before you reach the 'Entry to Llangan' sign, turn right along a surfaced lane. To continue your walk refer to the text that follows the * above.

FEATURES OF INTEREST

COLWINSTON

1 **St Michael's and All Angels.** This is a Grade 1 listed Church. It was built in 1111 in the Early English style.

2 **The Sycamore Tree** was built before 1650.

3 **This Baptismal Pool** was used until the late 19th century by the local Ebenezer Baptist Church.

4 **Pwll y Wrach** is a 17th century Manor House that was rebuilt in 1770 and further considerably changed when the Prichard family took possession in the late 19th century. Did have an extensive parkland garden much of which has reverted to farmland. Now produces high quality livestock.

LLANDOW

5 **The Holy Trinity Church** is a listed 12th/13th century building.

LLYSWORNEY

6 **St Tydfil's** was first mentioned as a church when under the aegis of Tewkesbury Abbey. It contains a large pre Reformation bell, Bristol made in the 15th century. Like so many churches it suffered from unsympathetic Victorian restoration.

7 **The Carne Arms** is more than 400 years old. Its name is derived from the local family of that name who were very influential in this area.

LLANGAN

8 **St Canna's Church** is of a 12th century foundation. It underwent a complete external restoration in 1856. In the churchyard there are two features of considerable interest. Firstly there is a 9th century Celtic Cross depicting the crucifixion and secondly a rare, unaltered, completely medieval Cross and Calvary.

9 **Lead mine stack** This is what remains of the Llangan lead mine that operated from 1855 – 1879. The largest lead mine in the Vale existed in the 17th and 18th centuries near this walk route at Tewgoed (see map).

ST MARY HILL

10 **Cwrt** This is a small group of buildings that stands a little west of St Mary Hill. The buildings date from the 15th century. There is some evidence of a former fulling mill.

11 **St Mary's Church** Situated in an area of St Mary Hill called Penymynydd, this church has features from the 13th to 20th centuries. The churchyard contains a medieval cross with possibly an original carved head.

TREOOS

12 **The Star Inn** Created out of two cottages. The older cottage was built of local limestone and has a thatched roof, the younger has a Welsh slate roof.

Route Guide

Start either at St Michael's church 1 or the Sycamore Tree inn 2 depending on parking availability. Walk from the church up the gentle hill past the inn. Continue eastward for some 350 yards until you reach on your right the drive of a residence, Heddfan. Follow the property's right hand boundary to descend a stepped stile into a field. Continue down slope to a double stile on the right, past an attractive pond (once a baptism pool), over wooden and stone stiles then uphill to a double stile to the right of a gate. Continue over the crest of the next field and follow the line of the overhead wires to a stile. Aim for a stile towards the bottom right hand corner of the following field. *(The actual Right of Way follows a curved downhill course to your right.)* Now turn left along a road for a short distance before turning right over the stile at Stembridge Brook Pumping Station. Follow the path to a nearby second stile and then walk straight ahead, passing a stunted tree on your right, until you reach a footbridge. Continue more or less in a straight line, uphill at first through three fields (via one gateway and two stiles) to a clump of scrubby trees and a waymark post at the front and rear. Descend the short distance to a footbridge leading to the roadside

in Llandow. Its church 5 is a short distance away to the right. You turn left and follow the road out of the village. Just after a right-hand bend you leave the road by turning left to cross a stile into a field. Follow its left boundary and exit via a stile into a road where you turn right. After 300 yards climb a flight of stone steps on your left and cross the stile. Go straight across the field, over one stile and then another on your right on to a farm track. Follow this track, into the village of Llysworney.

If you wish to visit the Carne Arms 7 continue ahead to the main road. Otherwise turn left downhill between the church 6 and a picturesque pond. At the crossroads turn left along the lane signposted to Colwinston. At a left bend in the road turn right over a stile next to a field gate. Walk a short distance up the slope and pass through a kissing gate *(from here a short diversion along a path to the left leads to an information board)* into Worney Wood, created in 2000 by the Woodland Trust. Follow the footpath straight ahead to exit the wood via a stile leading to a grassy track. Soon bear right from the track into a field. Follow its left boundary uphill. Continue ahead through a gap in the hedge to find a double stile leading into the next field.