

Walks - Penallt Pubs Circular

A moderately easy circular walk starting and ending along the river, but rising into the wooded hills around. Some excellent views with a couple of pubs en-route.

Bus service:	69
Bus stop:	Redbrook, The Bell (by the Millennium Green)
Length:	5.6 km (3.5 miles)
Walking time:	About 2.5 hours
Refreshments:	The Bell and Boat, Redbrook. Bush Inn, Penallt.

Walk along the road towards the village centre and go into the Boat Inn car park. At the far end of the car park follow the path beside the football pitch before going left over the iron footbridge from England into Wales (1).

Penallt Viaduct was a crossing for the Wye Valley Railway opened in 1876. It originally had stations on each side of the 300ft span - one called Redbrook, one called Penallt Halt - largely used to deliver beer to the pub.

Turn right along the lane past The Boat. After 20 metres go through the bridlegate on your right (2).

Follow the riverside path past the cottage on your left, and carry on for another 750 metres until you reach a left turning up a waymarked path through Washings Wood (3).

The path emerges onto a surfaced track near a cottage, turn right and continue up a path to join Birches Road (4). Turn right on the road and continue up to Penallt Church (on your right) (5).

Penallt church is worth a detour. There is an ancient 'veteran' sweet chestnut tree just outside the entrance, and good views from the churchyard.



Penallt Viaduct

Follow the road past the church as it bends sharply left around the edge of Church Hill Common to reach a fingerpost pointing left (just past the horse riding arena) (6).

Go down the path to a gate which leads you across a small field to a second gate. Continue down the path to the bottom.

Cross over the stream, and go over the stile.

Walk up the narrow field straight ahead and cross another stile (into Lane). Cross straight over, following the path opposite (through woodland) to the top, where the path bears right on to Glyn Road (7).

Follow Glyn Road uphill and bear left at the junction towards 'Monmouth'. At the corner of the road, cross the stone stile into the field (8), following the hedge to a second stone stile. Here turn

right to Penallt Village Common and the Bush Inn (9).

Passing the inn on your left come to a track next to a stone cottage (Pentwyn Cottage), follow this to Lone Lane (10).

The woods around Penallt were a source of pudding stone, an odd mixed-up rock which looks as though it's been made of lumps of gravel, flint and coal chips. Used as millstones in cider presses, the stones would be rolled down to the river to be taken away by boat.

Turn left down Lone Lane for at least a kilometre until you reach Hillside Cottage (11).

Go through the small white gate and follow the grassy track to a waymarked post at the top of some steps.

Go down the steps to the old railway line. Cross the line and turn left on the Wye Valley Walk which leads back to the Boat Inn (12).

