

## How to get there



You can reach the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk by the efficient road network or by rail links. Regular bus services run throughout the area.

## Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service



The Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk is managed by the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service in partnership with the Borough Council of Taff Ely. The Countryside Service is committed to protect and promote the local countryside. It offers advice and practical assistance on rights of ways, conservation and recreation. The Service leads guided walks along the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk.

This leaflet was designed by the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service for Taff Ely Leisure Services.

TAFF ELY LEISURE



HAMDDEN TAF ELAI

# Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk



## Ffordd y Bryniau

# Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk

The Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk is a pleasant mixture of footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes.

For twenty one miles the Ridgeway Walk follows a line of hills running from Mynydd Maendy in the West to



*Old Llantrisant*

Caerphilly Common in the East. From these magnificent balconies you will discover the beautiful countryside and breathtaking views of the South Wales Valleys.

Cool forests with babbling brooks merge into ancient landscapes of tumuli and hill forts. The quiet cobbled streets of old Llantrisant can be seen on the same

day that you glimpse the fairy tale Castell Coch, peeping through the beech woodlands.



*Taking a break on Craig yr Allt*

With plenty of car parks, bus and rail links close at hand, the Ridgeway Walk is ideal for short circular walks. For longer walks the Ridgeway Walk links with the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and the Taff Trail to the East and the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk to the West.



You will need waterproofs and stout footwear throughout the year as the path can be muddy. The yellow and black waymark discs along the route clearly show you the way.

If all the walking makes you thirsty then there are shops and pubs en route. Accommodation can also be found

nearby. Please read the useful information to help you plan your walk.

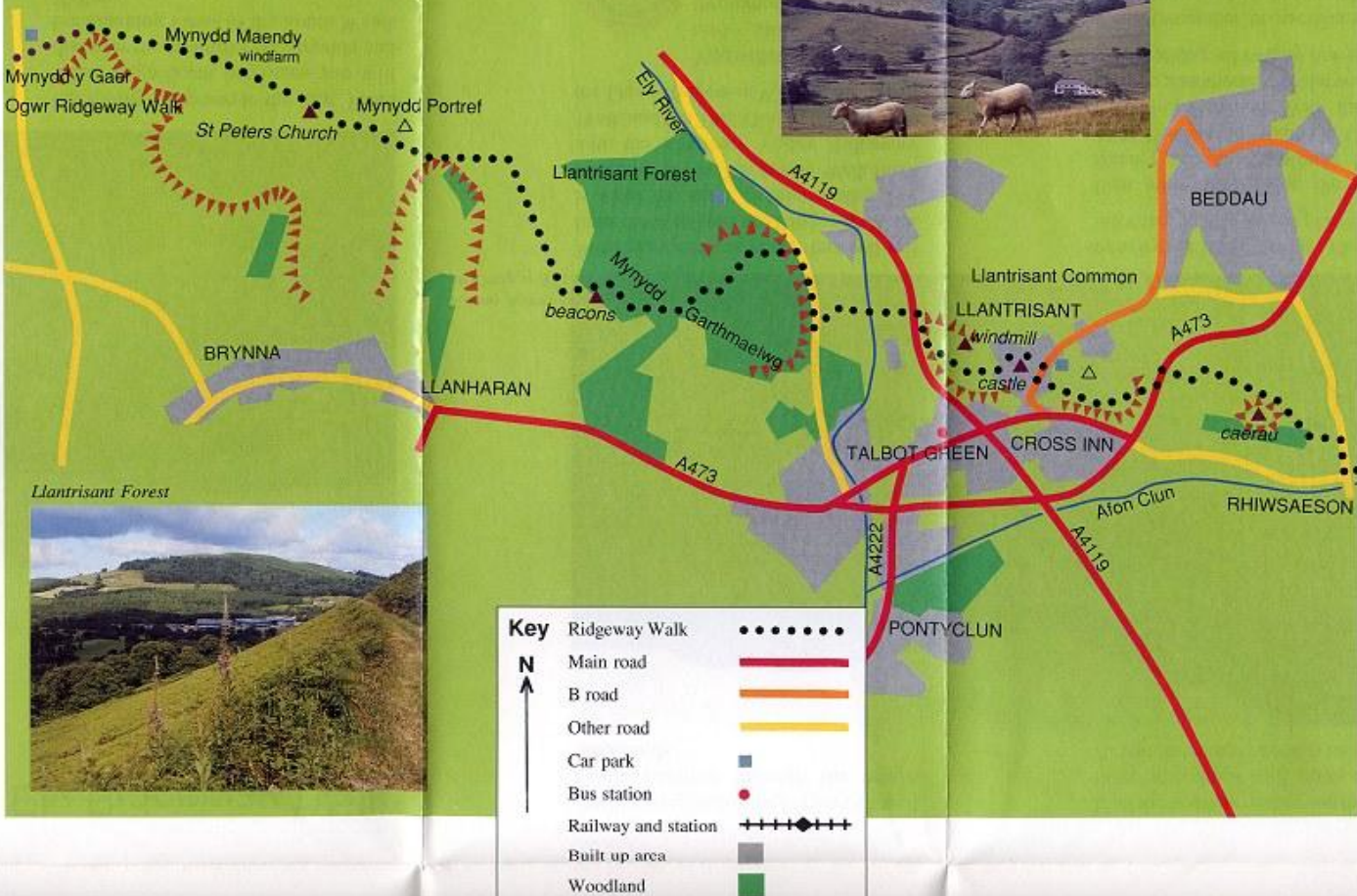
Plan your route using the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Pathfinder Map Nos 1148 Pontypridd (south) & Caerphilly and 1147 Pencoed. With these maps you can plan shorter circular walks rather than walking all twenty one miles.

Please remember, in case of emergencies tell someone where you are planning to walk and inform them when you have returned.



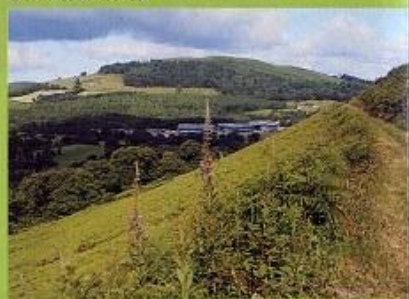
# TAFF ELY RIDGEWAY WALK

## Mynydd Maendy to Rhiwsaeson









Windfarm at Mynydd Maendy

Llantrisant Forest

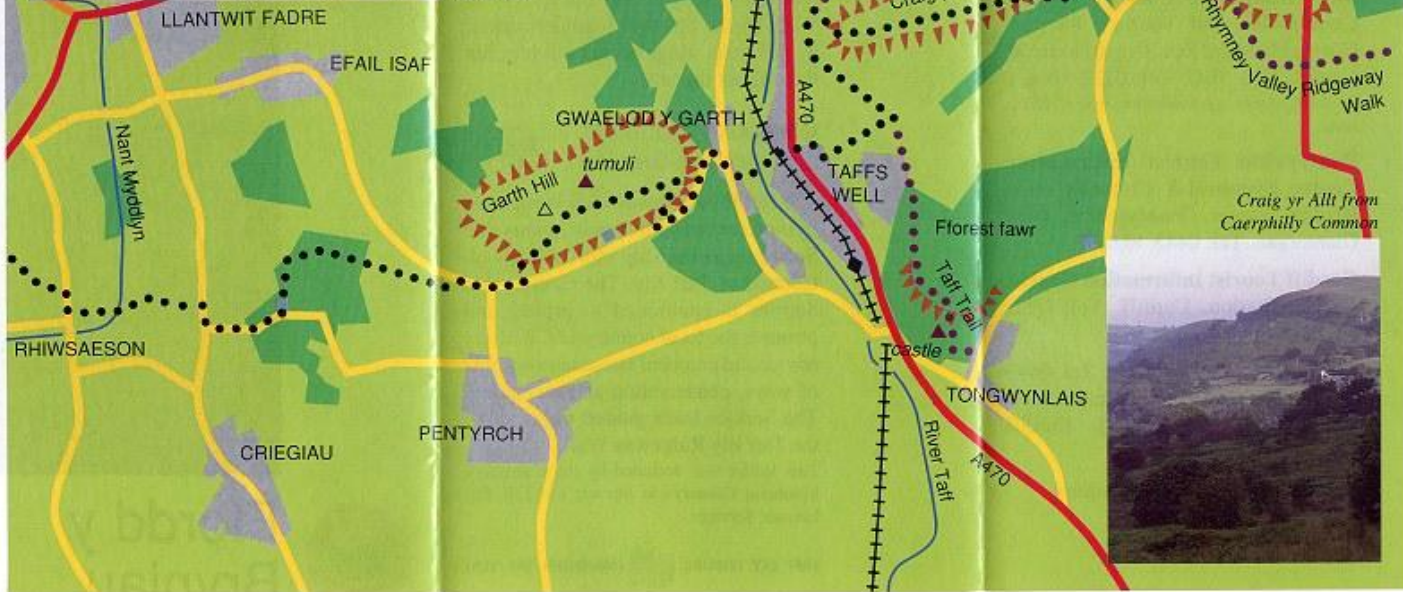


# TAFF ELY RIDGEWAY WALK Rhiwsaeson to Caerphilly Common



Built up area   
 Woodland   
 Steep hillside   
 River   
 Historic site   
 Triangulation point 

**Scale**  
 0 — 1 kilometre  
 0 — 1 mile



*Early morning on the Garth Hill*

*Craig yr Allt from Caerphilly Common*





## Landmarks and Features of Interest

1. Y Gaer — Hill Fort.
2. Tumulus — Mynydd Maendy.
3. Ruins of St. Peter's Church.
4. Caer Rocks — Overlooking the Upper Ewenni Fach.
5. Tumulii Beacons and Mineral Well — Mynydd Garthmaelwg.
6. Ruins of Ynysmaerdy Colliery.
7. Hen Felin Wynt — Remains of an old windmill.
8. Llantrisant Old Town — Medieval Church castle ruins and cobbled streets.
9. The Caerau — Iron Age Hill Fort, part of ramparts still visible.
10. Cae yr Arfau — Cromlech burial chamber.
11. Tumulii Garth Hill.
12. Taffs Well Spa — The only thermal spring in Wales, to be restored by Taff Ely Council.
13. Castell Coch — built in 1870 for the Marquess of Bute on the site of a 700 year old castle.
14. Castell Morgraig — (Ruins)
15. Caerphilly Castle — second largest castle area in Britain built by Earl Gilbert de Clare in 1277.

*For further information contact:*

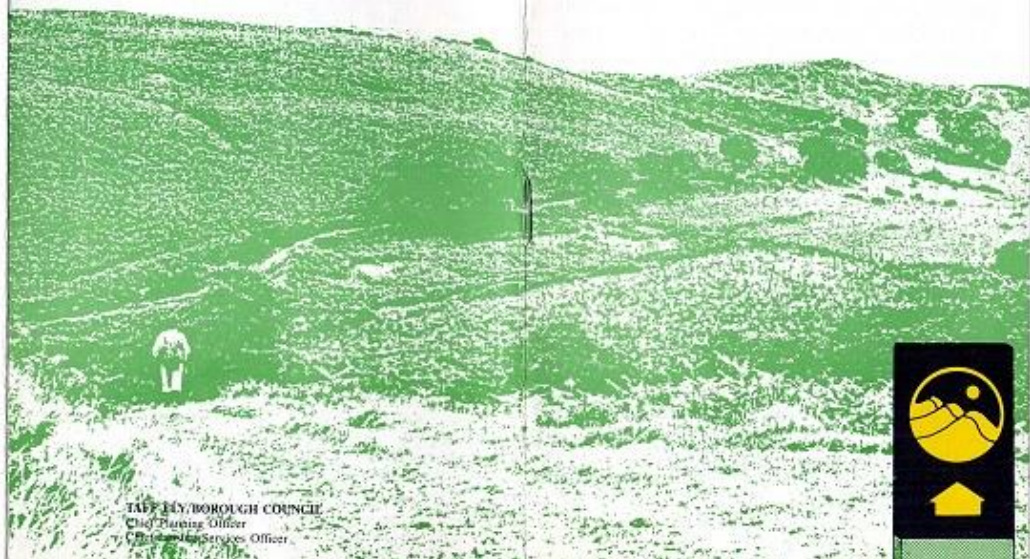
Tourism Officer  
Leisure Services Dept.,  
37 Mill Street,  
Pontypridd,  
Mid Glam. CF37 2TU,  
Tel: (0443) 406441

## REMEMBER THE COUNTRY CODE

- Guard against fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Do not damage fences, hedges, gates and walls.
- Leave no litter.
- Safeguard water supplies.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Respect the countryside.
- Go carefully on country roads.

# Ridgeway Walk Ffordd y Bryniau

Long Distance Footpath



TAFF ELY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Chief Planning Officer  
Chief Planning Services Officer



Forests of mixed hard and softwoods are encountered at Mynydd Garthmaelwg and Ty'n-y-Coed where small car parks, picnic areas, wayfaring courses and nature trails have been established. Trees seen along the walk vary from the sessile oaks, alder and birch of the sandstone ridge to the majestic beech of the lesser limestone ridges.



SKYLARK

### VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Garth Hill and Craig yr Allt are both magnificent natural balconies from which to view the upland hills and valleys to the north and the coastal plain and City of Cardiff to the South. More immediate views obtained from these vantage points are of the Taff Valley and the Caerphilly/Llantwit Fardre basin where much development has taken place over the last two decades.

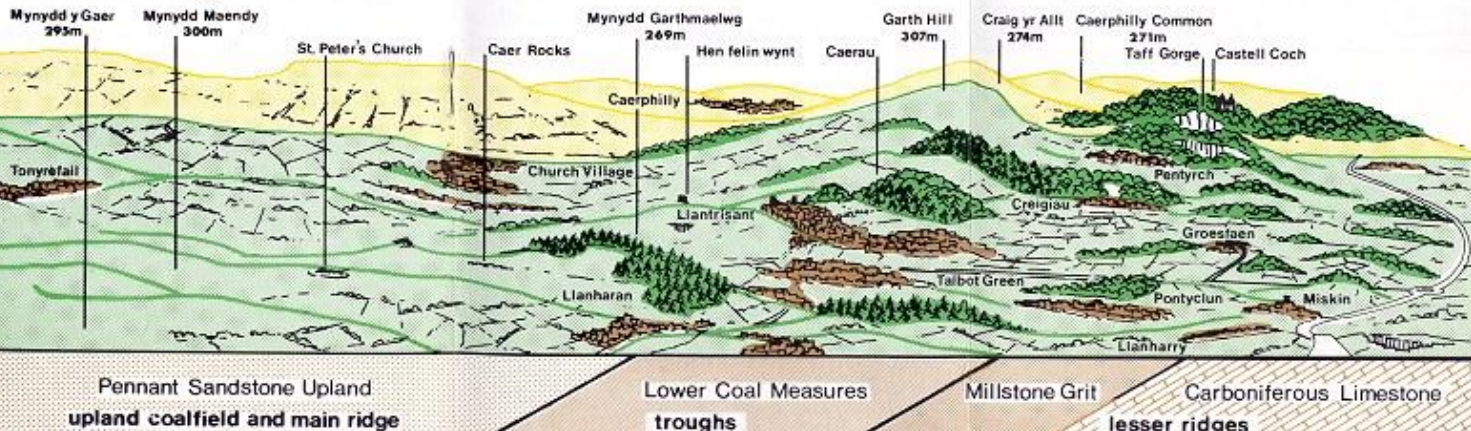
The Ridgeway Walk ends at Caerphilly Common a very popular recreation area in the heart of the Caerphilly Mountain Country Park. From the common the A469 leads directly to Caerphilly Town where the second largest castle in Britain is to be seen, a pleasant way to end a walk, itself steeped in local history.

TORMENTIL  
(*Potentilla erecta*)

yellow four petalled  
notched flowers



grows in heath and  
grassy places on  
acid soils





### Introduction

In 1979 the Borough Council of Taff Ely decided to promote the establishment of a long distance footpath across a range of hills which extend from Mynydd y Gaer in the neighbouring district of Ogwr (G.R.969860) eastwards across Taff Ely to Caerphilly Common in Rhymney Valley (G.R.157857) a distance, by way of existing statutory footpaths and rights of way, of some 21 miles.

When viewed from either north or south these hills appear to form a continuous ridge, the rocks of which were uplifted over 280 million years ago when intense earth movements folded and faulted the coalfield basin to the north. Subsequent action by rivers and ice have created picturesque valleys whose rivers emerge through gaps in this ridge. One such gap occurs at Taffs Well where, from a vantage point on Garth Hill, one can see the steep sided limestone cliffs of the gorge topped by a Rhine-ish looking Castell Coch.



Ewenni Fach Rocks

Cover: Upper Ewenni Fach

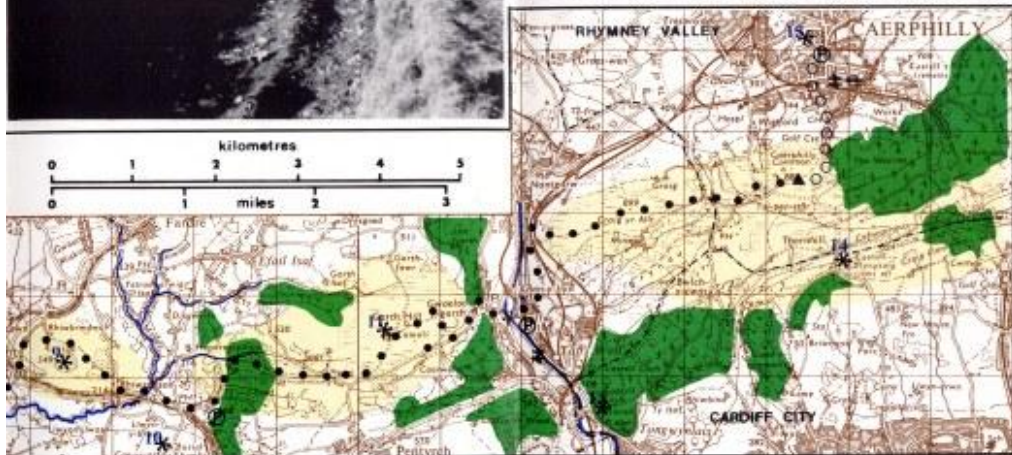
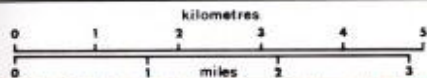


Yr Allt — Llantrisant

### The Walk

The nature of the walk varies between upland Parish tracks of great antiquity as for example between Mynydd y Gaer and Mynydd Garthmaelwg, and the narrow forest trails and urban footpaths of the valleys below.

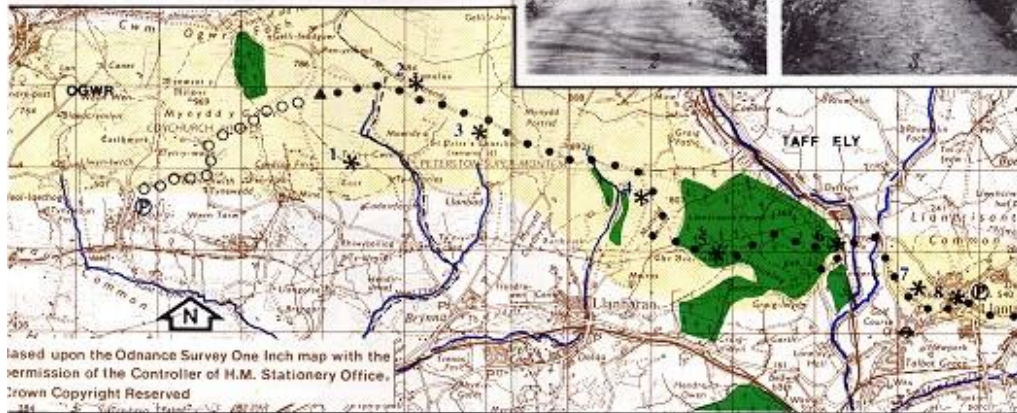
The path itself links 'Iron and Bronze Age' landscapes or tumuli and hill forts with the Medieval cobbled streets of Old Llantrisant, a Welsh hill town developed by the Normans as a strategic frontier town during the 12th and 13th Centuries. Traces of Norman architecture may still be seen in the Church, whilst next to the old Town Hall is the ivy covered tower of Llantrisant Castle. A walkabout the Old Town via Heol-y-Belliau, Heol Sticil-y-Beddau, Church Street, Yr Allt and High Street is recommended before leaving via Erw Hir.



#### KEY

- Route of Ridgeway Walk ~ Ffordd-y-Bryniau
- ▲ Start/Finish
- Access to walk from Heol-y-Cyw/Caerphilly
- ✱ Landmarks and features of interest (REFER TO LIST)
- Ⓟ Car parking
- Ⓡ Bus station
- Ⓡ Railway station
- Main woodlands
- Southcrop ridge
- Local Authority boundaries





Based upon the Ordnance Survey One Inch map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved

1. Hen felin wynt, Llantrisant
2. Forest road, Garthmaelwg
3. Heol Sticil y Beddau, Llantrisant
4. Llantrisant - A Welsh Hill Town
5. Ridgeway walk and Tumulus on Garth Hill
6. Gwaelod-y-garth
7. Caerphilly Castle

