

Accessible Powwys

A Guide to Countryside Trails and Sites



1st Edition

Introduction

Welcome to the wealth of countryside within the ancient counties of Radnorshire, Brecknockshire and Montgomeryshire, which together make up the present day county of Powys.

This guide contains details of various sites and trails that are suitable for people needing easier access, such as wheelchair users, parents with small children and people with limited walking ability.

We hope you enjoy your time in this beautiful and diverse landscape.

This brochure was researched and compiled by Disabled Holiday Information (reg charity no.1119972) in partnership with Powys County Council.

In all cases the locations listed within the guide have been visited by small teams of people with easy access needs (including a wheelchair user), with the aim of ensuring that the information it contains is awareness led and as accurate as possible.

NB This brochure is not designed to be a comprehensive guide to each area but to give visitors an insight into the wide selection of accessible countryside sites on offer within this large and varied county.

Please note our (i.e. Disabled Holiday Information's) web pages for Powys and our general UK trail and attraction search pages will

contain more detailed accessibility data and updated information for each site visited as well as additional sites that have been visited since publication.

The guide is split into the 3 historic shires within the county and at the beginning of each section is a reference to the relevant Ordnance Survey Explorer maps.

Each site or trail has been given a category which gives an indication of ease of use.

Category 1 – These are easier access routes that are mainly level and that would be suitable for most visitors (including self propelling wheelchair users) without assistance.

Category 2 – These are moderately easy step free routes that may have some inclines or uneven surfaces to negotiate and that most manual wheelchair users would require some light assistance with.

Category 3 – These routes also have step free access but include some sections with steeper gradients or rougher surfaces that some visitors may find require rest breaks and that would only be suitable for most manual wheelchair users with assistance from someone who is fit and able.

Each entry includes: - the abbreviations of the responsible organisation in brackets, if the site is not council managed, with a list of the key contacts and site managers/owners detailed at the back of the brochure.

Also Explorer Map numbers and Ordnance Survey Grid references and facilities on site see key below:

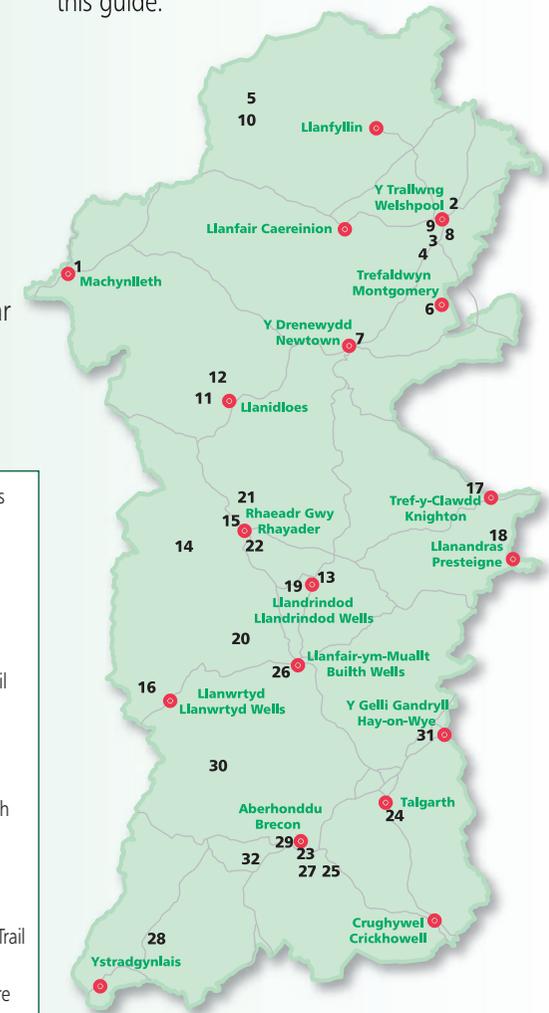
-  *on site unless otherwise stated*
NB most designated public toilets will require a radar key
-  *at least one seat along route*
-  *accessible picnic table*
-  *tactile elements / audio interest*

For further information on other guides or to obtain a downloadable version of this particular brochure visit:

www.powys.gov.uk or
www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 Y Plas, Machynlleth | 18 Withybeds and Wentes Nature Reserve |
| 2 Buttington Wharf, Welshpool | 19 Rock Park |
| 3 Belan Locks, Welshpool | 20 Cors Y Llyn |
| 4 Montgomery Canal, Refail | 21 Gilfach Farm |
| 5 Lake Vyrnwy | 22 Gigrin Farm |
| 6 Montgomery Castle | 23 Brecon Basin Canal Trail |
| 7 Dolerw Park | 24 Pwll-Y-Wrach |
| 8 Severn Farm Pond | 25 Talybont Reservoir |
| 9 Coed Y Dinas | 26 The Groe |
| 10 Pont Llogel | 27 Talybont Canal Towpath |
| 11 Cascades Trail | 28 Far Lake Trail |
| 12 Llyn Clywedog | 29 Brecon Promenade |
| 13 Llandrindod Lake | 30 Epynt Way |
| 14 Elan Valley | 31 Hay on Wye Riverside Trail |
| 15 Waun Capel | 32 Brecon National Park Mountain Visitor Centre |
| 16 Pwll Bo | |
| 17 Offa's Dyke Path | |

We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide is correct at the time of printing and neither Disabled Holiday Information (nor Powys County Council) will be held liable for any loss or disappointment suffered as a result of using this guide.



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Montgomeryshire

Llanidloes and Newtown 214 - Newtown and Machynlleth 215 - Welshpool and Montgomery Explorer 216 - Lake Vyrnwy and Llanfyllin 239

1) Y Plas Grounds

CATEGORY 1    

EXPLORER 215 GR SH745 005

The 30 minute trail starts from the beautifully decorated gates which mark the former grand entrance to Y Plas, located opposite the Owain Glyndwr Centre in the centre of Machynlleth. The level, well surfaced path winds through the grounds of the now publically owned grade II listed Georgian Mansion House (formerly the home of the Marquess of Londonderry) and offers visitors lovely views across fields with grazing sheep, with an attractive backdrop of the surrounding hills.

Y Plas, now managed by Machynlleth Town Council, is used as a conference/exhibition centre as well as housing an excellent cafe and well stocked gallery and craft shop.

NB There is also a Category 2 'chipping' surfaced path that leads past an all weather sports court to a wildlife garden and pond.

2) Montgomery Canal - Welshpool - (BW)

CATEGORY 1

The Montgomery Canal runs for 33 miles (53 km) from the Llangollen Canal (at Frankton Junction) in Shropshire to Newtown in Powys.

Originally known as the Montgomeryshire Canal, along with the adjoining Llanymynech Branch of the Ellesmere Canal, the canal fell into disuse following a breach in 1936, and was officially abandoned in 1944. With the revival of canal use in the late 20th century, the canal now has an on-going programme of restoration work. This has included improvements to the towpaths and there is now step free access to several well surfaced sections.



These include **2) Buttington Wharf** which is signposted off the A483 on the northern outskirts of Welshpool. There are 3 adjacent lime kilns and in the past the wharf was used to load and unload boats with the raw materials associated with lime production. There is level entrance to the wharf where there is an interpretation board and picnic area. From here there is level walking/wheeling alongside the canal towards Welshpool as far as Salop Road and back (from Bridge 115 to just beyond Bridge 116), taking approximately 60 minutes to complete. The car park is located just past the entrance to the wharf. However, there is then an uphill gradient to the entrance for the start of the trail so visitors may be advised to park on the road adjacent to the entrance.

   (THE FLASH LEISURE CENTRE OR BY THE T.I.C. WELSHPOOL)

EXPLORER 216 GR SJ242 089

3) Belan Locks, which are located just off the A483 south of Welshpool, enjoy a peaceful setting with abundant wildlife and excellent views of the surrounding countryside including Rodney's Pillar (a memorial to Admiral Sir George Rodney) situated on a nearby hilltop.

From the car park there is a pressed gravel pathway to the hard surfaced towpath which is easy level wheeling/walking as far as the lock (30 minutes round trip). NB The locks are located up a steep grass bank that is not wheelchair accessible but there are good views of them.

  (COED Y DINAS GARDEN CENTRE)

EXPLORER 216 GR SJ216 053



4) Refail, which is further south along the A483 towards Newtown, has another accessible and very pretty section of the canal towpath, which runs from Bridge 129 at Refail to Bridge 128 adjacent to the Blacksmiths workshop at Berriew. This also forms part of the Severn Way and is approximately three quarters of a mile long and takes around 60 minutes to complete the return trip. It passes over the Berriew Aqueduct with excellent views over the River Rhiv, a tributary of the Severn. NB Parts of this section of the canal are designated a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and flora and fauna are abundant. Step free access to the towpath is adjacent to Refail Presbyterian Chapel where there is also limited parking available when functions are not being held in the hall. There is further parking a short

distance away by the old motor works, opposite Glansevern Hall Gardens and adjacent to the main A483.

 (BERRIEW RECREATION GROUND)

EXPLORER 216 GR SJ192 002

5) Lake Vyrnwy Nature Reserve Sculpture Trail

CATEGORY 2 (RSPB)  (AT VISITOR CENTRE)

EXPLORER 239 GR SJO20 191

Lake Vyrnwy Nature Reserve is set in a beautiful part of Mid Wales, in the heart of the Berwyn Mountains where Powys meets North East Wales. Lake Vyrnwy was created in 1888 when work on a dam to supply water to Liverpool was finally completed. The old village of Llanwddyn disappeared under the waters but when the level drops during dry summers, you can see the ruins of the buildings. The reserve is managed by the RSPB and there is plenty to see and do including the RSPB shop and information centre, an audio visual theatre, several gift and craft shops and tearooms.

At the bottom of the dam is a (45 minute) circular sculpture trail with good hard-surfaced paths and riverside views. For step free access from the Visitor Centre, cross the dam, turn right and take the next right. There is a small car park at the end of this lane (blue badge holders only).

6) Montgomery Castle

CATEGORY 2 (CADW)  (ONLY ACCESSIBLE TOILET IN MONTGOMERY IS LOCATED IN THE CASTLE TEAROOMS AND IS FOR CUSTOMERS USE ONLY)

EXPLORER 216 GR SO221 965

The town of Montgomery in Powys is dominated by the remains of Montgomery Castle that stands on the hill behind the town. The present castle was started in 1223 and replaced an earlier 'motte and bailey' castle called Hen Domen sited one mile away to the north west. This new site on a rocky outcrop proved an excellent choice as the castle was never taken by force throughout the town's turbulent history and it remained an English stronghold in this area of the Marches until it was finally demolished in 1649.



The well surfaced, gently inclined pathway up to the castle from the car park has stunning views over the town below. Access to the castle remains is across two level wooden boarded bridges giving excellent views of the castle's deeply ditched defences. There is good access around most of the remains and to some of the information boards. The spectacular views over the surrounding countryside from the castle's elevated position make this an amazing place to visit.

NB The grass path down to the area around the base of the castle walls and the information board overlooking the site of the civil war battle is challenging and too steeply inclined for wheelchair access.

7) Newtown Dolerw Park

CATEGORY 2  (BACK LANE CAR PARK & GRAVEL LANE CAR PARK)

EXPLORER 215 GR SO106 916

Newtown (Y Drenewydd) is the largest town in the county of Powys. It lies on the banks of the River Severn and is best known as the birthplace of Robert Owen, the Social Reformer, in 1771. There is a network of hard surfaced paths within Dolerw Park and alongside the river, including a section of the long distance Severn Way which passes through the town.

Starting the trail from Back Lane Car Park is a good idea as this is where the cafe is located. The Path alongside the river towards the Nature Reserve from the Dolerw Bridge divides offering visitors' two accessible options.

The first follows a levee where there are benches (this is quite high with no hand rail). The path curves around the car park, across a road, down beside a public house/hotel and around a beautiful ruined Church. The path is hard and level surfaced as far as Gravel Car Park, however beyond this point the surface deteriorates so retracing your route back to the Dolerw Bridge is the best option. The second route follows a lower riverside path, which, although it has less seating does have lovely sights and sounds.





8) Severn Farm Pond

CATEGORY 2 (MWT)    (WELSHPOOL T.I.C.)

EXPLORER 216 GR SJ228 068

This nature reserve is located in an urban area within an Industrial Estate at Welshpool and is open all year round with no entrance charge. Site features include boardwalks all around the pond and two bird hides where an abundance of plant and wildlife can be seen. Visitors might be lucky enough to watch a heron fishing the pond.

A great deal of effort has been made to make the site interactive for visitors of all ages and there are tactile and audio sculptures.

Although once inside the reserve it is mainly level wheeling/walking, it is important to note that during the height of summer, in places the boardwalk and some sections of the paths can narrow with encroaching vegetation and there are some ramps to negotiate.



9) Coed-y-Dinas Nature Trail

CATEGORY 2 (MWT)  (COED Y DINAS GARDEN CENTRE)

EXPLORER 216 GR SJ220 051

This short circular trail is located at Coed-y-Dinas Nature Reserve (originally a redundant gravel pit), which has now been turned into a wildlife haven. In winter flocks of teal and widgeon join the resident wildfowl with occasional visits by whooper swans and goosanders. The site is managed by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, which since 1982 has been the leading voluntary organisation promoting wildlife conservation in Montgomeryshire.

A compacted surfaced path leads from the car park up to the bird hide overlooking the lake. Access into the hide is via a wide sliding door and there is a large viewing window out over the lake. There is room for scopes with tripods and the shelves suitable for hide clamps are also accessible. Bench seating is provided within the hide. There are lift up tactile displays along the trail, however in places these are positioned out of easy reach of the path. The novel 'mushroom' seating area which could be great for families with young children is accessed via a ramp. There is also step free access to a covered picnic area.



10) Pont Llogel

CATEGORY 3 (FCW)   (LAKE VYRNWY VISITOR CENTRE)

EXPLORER 239 GR SJ033 154

This linear trail is managed by Forestry Commission Wales and located within the Dyfnant Forest on the B4395, approximately 8 miles from Lake Vyrnwy. The car park has a reasonable surface with an accessible picnic bench. The linear trail follows the course of the Afon Efyrnwy for approximately half a mile and offers visitors beautiful riverside views.

NB The hard surface is strewn with large coarse gravel and there are several steep slopes to negotiate on the way down to the two accessible picnic tables at the end of the trail.



11) Cascades Trail - Hafren Forest - (FCW)

CATEGORY 3   

EXPLORER 214 GR SN857 869

The Hafren Forest is located approximately 6 miles west of Llanidloes and the trail starts through a wooden arch in the Rhyd-y-benwch Picnic Site Car Park.

Starting with a steep incline down on a hard surfaced path to a ford across the River Severn, the trail then runs along approximately half a mile of boardwalk (with seating and passing places at regular intervals) beside the river to a viewing point over the cascades.

The scenery is stunning and the view and sounds of the river tumbling over the cascades gives visitors a unique insight into this wild and incredibly beautiful area.

NB It is really important to note that a red coloured, slightly raised, non-slip strip has been fitted to the surface of each individual board. Although this does not seriously affect walking, it does mean that for wheelchair users/buggies there is constant vigorous jarring all along the board walk section of the trail.



12) Llyn Clywedog Reservoir - (STW)

VIEWING POINT  

EXPLORER 214 GR SN910 869

Located off the B4518 road near the town of Llanidloes, Llyn Clywedog Reservoir is currently owned and managed by Severn Trent Water. There is a long stone viewing platform accessed via a ramp, which has a couple of lower viewing areas looking out over the Dam and surrounding countryside.

Also located here is the Red Kite Kiosk (open daily from Easter until September), which is sited on the ground floor of the 'Look Out' building. On the upper floor of the building (step free access via an external ramp) there is an external seating area and a covered display of interpretation panels explaining the history, geology, flora and fauna of the Dam and Reservoir.

Radnorshire

Llandovery and Llanymddyfri Explorer 187 - Builth Wells Explorer 188 - Llandrindod Wells and Elan Valley Explorer 200 - Knighton and Presteigne Explorer 201



13) Llandrindod Wells Lake

CATEGORY 1  

EXPLORER 200 GR SO062 606

The Lake lies within the town centre and was originally created as a boating lake during the latter part of the 19th century.

More recently a park project has been set up to improve Lakeside facilities and enhance the biodiversity of the area. This is a pleasant circular trail with good lakeside views especially of the Water Serpent sculpture.

Starting by the Cafe and using the gently sloped path down to the Lakeside, follow a clockwise direction around the lake, through an informal wooded area before re-entering the Lake Park and past the 'Llandoddie' sculpture back to the starting point (45 minutes approximately).



14) Elan Valley Trail (EVT) - Garreg Ddu Reservoir

CATEGORY 1   (AT VISITOR CENTRE)

EXPLORER 200 GR SN928 646

The Elan Valley lies approximately 3 miles from Rhayader in the midst of spectacular scenery. The whole trail following the line of the old Birmingham Corporation Railway is 8 miles (13km) in length and whilst it is step/barrier free, has some challenging gradients.

However, a level, well surfaced section of the trail runs the length of Garreg Ddu reservoir as far as the minor road at the head of Pen y Garreg Reservoir. It takes approximately 30 minutes brisk wheeling/walking each way to complete and the mountain views across the reservoir are breathtaking.

A car park located adjacent to the dam at Garreg Ddu Reservoir approximately half a mile beyond the Visitor Centre has gated access to the trail.

NB The Visitor Centre has audio/visual interpretation detailing the area's history and wildlife as well as a shop, small exhibition and gallery.



15) Waun Capel Wildlife Trail

CATEGORY 2   (DARK LANE CAR PARK)

EXPLORER 200 GR SN969 679

It starts from a picnic area in the car park accessed and signposted off Bridge Street in Rhayader.

Whilst the whole trail is not wheelchair accessible, a hard surfaced accessible section of the trail passes alongside the River Wye with excellent views over the river. It follows around the base of the rocky outcrop on which Rhayader Castle was built and then slopes down as far as the childrens' play area and footbridge (approximately 15 minutes each way).

Interpretation boards at the site give information about the local flora and fauna including the Atlantic salmon that come up the river to spawn.



16) Pwll Bo (FCW)

CATEGORY 2     (LLANWRTYD WELLS BY BRIDGE/COED TRAWLLMFOREST VISITOR CENTRE)

EXPLORER 187 GR SN856 507

Located near Llanwrtyd Wells, this trail is set within mature coniferous woodland managed by the Forestry Commission. Starting from the car park it has open views of the River Irfon and the first section is fairly level and relatively easy walking/wheeling.

Beyond this point the trail goes up a steep incline and then drops sharply down to a seat overlooking the river, then leaving the riverside takes a sharp turn to the right from which point it is only accessible for people with good walking ability. This very attractive linear trail takes approximately 50 minutes to complete and the sounds of the river, the wind in the trees, trickling streams and woodland birds are very evident all along the route.

NB In places the surface is uneven with exposed slate or covered with soft pine needles.



17) Offa's Dyke Path - Knighton

CATEGORY 2  

EXPLORER 201 GR SO285 726

Offa, King of Mercia (757 - 796 AD) commissioned the Dyke, a massive linear earthwork on the western edge of his Kingdom (still roughly the Welsh/English boundary) as a defence against attacks from Wales. Offa's Dyke Visitor Centre in Knighton, which lies approximately midway along the Dyke, contains information, a shop and interesting displays/exhibits. One of 15 long distance national trails, Offa's Dyke Path is 177 miles long and links the Severn estuary near Chepstow with the North Sea at Prestatyn.

Access down to a short section of the Path from the centre is via a flight of steps and although there is a signed grassed alternative route, this is steep, uneven and would be slippery in wet weather.

Alternative step free access is through a gate off nearby Crabtree Walk (includes a small parking area) and another gate leads to an accessible linear section of the Shropshire Hills Path with beautiful scenic riverside views.



18) Withybeds and Wentes Meadow Nature Reserve (RWT)

CATEGORY 2     (HEREFORD STREET, PRESTEIGNE)

EXPLORER 201 GR SO309 650

The site is located on the edge of Presteigne and alongside the River Lugg. Both the Withybeds and this section of the river have been designated SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). It is a flora and fauna rich habitat including many species of birds, dragonflies/damselflies and yellow necked mice.

The boardwalk takes 30 minutes to complete and is of a good width and well defined. This is a pleasant site with plenty of interest and excellent views over the river especially from the only bench on site.

NB On the research visit, the site entrance gate and the path to the boardwalk had encroached vegetation issues and the tapping rail was not well defined. Therefore, although fairly level throughout, it was graded a Level 2.



19) Rock Park

CATEGORY 3  (LLANDRINDOD WELLS RAILWAY STATION)

EXPLORER 200 GR SO055 609

This park is a community space within the town of Llandrindod Wells. It was established in the nineteenth century as a recreational area when the town drew in many visitors to 'take the waters' from its natural springs. The park was popular and well used for many years, however from the middle of the twentieth century it gradually fell into decline. In more recent years combined projects with Powys County Council and the Friends of the Rock Park Trust have seen on-going improvement work to restore the park to its former glory.

Access to the parking area by the Heritage Centre is down a steep road. However, this car park has a sloping surface and no designated spaces. There are spaces adjacent to the Bowling Club approximately 50 metres further along the track, which on non-match days maybe more suitable for visitors with easy access needs. The park has lovely streams and wooded areas with some good accessible paths and

bridges and is well worth visiting. However, the natural topography of the landscape means that some of the paths are extremely steep. A map is located by the bridge on the approach road that highlights prominent features within the Park (e.g. Chalybeate Spring) however please note this does not give any indication of easier access routes. New visitors may need to proceed with caution as it is extremely easy to end up on a path with very challenging gradients.

20) Cors-y-Llyn Nature Reserve (CCW)

CATEGORY 3   (BUILTH WELLS BY THE STRAND CAR PARK)

EXPLORER 200 GR SO016 556

This site is located approximately 1.5 miles from Newbridge-on-Wye in Mid Wales. It has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its rare habitat of herb rich meadowland and acid mire, which is rich in unusual flora and fauna. The entrance to the site is via a country lane off the A470 to Builth Wells and through a gated farm road. A 500 metre wheelchair accessible linear route has been created to run from the car park through meadowland (over grass mesh) past open water and then via an accessible boardwalk through parts of the mire culminating in seating at a viewing point.

Care needs to be taken to keep to the boardwalk which has passing places as the surrounding mire is deep in places. NB There is a tapping rail on either side of the board walk.

Visitors of all abilities are offered a unique chance to explore a wild and extraordinary part of the Welsh landscape.

21) Gilfach Farm - Nature Reserve (RWT)

EXPLORER 200 GR SN965 717

This site is the flagship nature reserve of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and is situated near the confluence of the Marteg River with the River Wye, 2 miles north of Rhayader in the Cambrian Mountains of Mid Wales. It covers 410 acres and encompasses a wide variety of habitats including rocky outcrops, traditionally managed hay meadows, woodlands and river valleys.



The Nature Discovery Centre (open during school holidays and some weekends) offers a programme of countryside activities. When it is shut visitors can still see inside the Byre, part of the traditional Welsh Longhouse, which has information about the area and its wildlife as well as some traditional farming tools.

There are trails throughout the reserve but due to the nature of this wild area even those indicated as easier access are not wheelchair accessible or suitable for visitors with limited mobility. However, the breathtaking scenery along the drive through the reserve up to the farm makes this site well worth a visit.

There is wheelchair access via a ramp (with assistance) to the Otter hide located by a stream approximately a quarter of a mile before reaching the farm. The hide has foldable seating to enable space in front of a lower viewing window. There is also space for one car to park near the hide.

22) Gigrin Farm – Red Kite Feeding Centre

EXPLORER 200 GR SN980 677

This privately run site is located near Rhayader in spectacular countryside and is home to the largest and most diverse concentration of birds of prey in Southern Britain. The diligence involved in the conservation work of red kites in this area has made this a story of outstanding success. To watch the sky fill with the sight and sound of hundreds of pairs of these amazing creatures performing an aerial ballet is a wondrous experience.

The feeding centre is on a working hill farm and as such has some uneven ground and natural slopes. However, to avoid traversing the farm track down to the viewing area, blue badge holders can ask to park adjacent to the ramped entrance to the accessible hides.

There is excellent vision of the feeding display (lasting approximately one and a half hours) through low observation windows in the dedicated area for people with more limited mobility.

The centre's information building which houses video displays and interpretation panels is on two levels with an internal step but there is



step free access to both areas on the ground floor through separate entrances. NB The trail at the farm (mentioned in its promotional literature) is not wheelchair accessible.

Brecknockshire

Brecon Beacons National Park (Western area) OL 12 Brecon Beacons National Park (Eastern area) OL 13 - Builth Wells Explorer 188

23) Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Brecon

CATEGORY 1 (BW)    (LOCATED WITHIN THE THEATRE)

EXPLORER OL 12 GR SO046 281

A two mile linear trail starts from the Canal Basin in Brecon and follows the canal as far as Brynich Lock and the Aqueduct. On the way visitors pass interpretation boards, community art projects and the scenery is beautiful especially the views over the River Taff to the hills beyond.

The start of the trail is narrow and uneven in places but soon broadens out into a wide hard surfaced cycle path. Apart from the ramp at the end of the trail leading back up on to the wharf, there are no real inclines and the trail is level all the way. For visitors with a hearing impairment it is important to note this is a busy cycle route and whilst there are signs requesting that priority is given to pedestrians, many cyclists speed through ringing their bells as the only warning.

NB This is definitely a fair weather walk, as during or after prolonged rain there are deep puddles right across the path all along the route.

24) Pwll-y-wrach

CATEGORY 1 (BWT)    (TALGARTH SQUARE)

EXPLORER OL13 GR SO163 327

Pwll-y-wrach is located approximately one mile south east of the town of Talgarth within the foothills of the Black Mountains. The trail can be accessed by leaving the town square, passing over the bridge and taking the first left and then keeping left for approximately one mile. The small parking area for the trail is on the right hand side of the road.



It is a wooded steeply sloping site following the course of the River Enig. However, a 500 metre level linear trail, down to a woodland seat and interpretation board, has been created to enable visitors of all abilities to enjoy the woodland.

The site is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and noted for its diverse flora and fauna and the trail, which in spring and summer is lined with a variety of rare wild flowers. The path takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

It is important to note that the waterfall and Witches Pool also situated within the reserve can only be reached by steep uneven paths that are only suitable for visitors with excellent ambulant ability.

25) Talybont Reservoir

CATEGORY 1 (WW/FCW)  (NEAREST FULLY ACCESSIBLE TOILET IS BRECON CANAL BASIN)

EXPLORER OL13 GR SO103 205

This category 1 trail around part of the Reservoir at Talybont-on-Usk takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and is level easy wheeling/walking. It offers visitors stunning views of the surrounding landscape and the large stretch of water, which is home to a wide variety of wildfowl and migratory birds.

It is possible to park on a minor road adjacent to the Dam and walk/wheel along a road (with several passing places) over the Dam. There are excellent views to both sides of this road and an interpretation board giving details of the pumping station's supply of water to the area.

On the far side of the Dam, turn right on to a track that passes alongside the reservoir and woodland. It is level and hard surfaced for approximately a quarter of a mile to a vehicle turning point. NB From here the track surface deteriorates and goes uphill so most visitors with easy access needs will need to turn and retrace the route.





26) The Groe

CATEGORY 1   

EXPLORER 188 GR SO041 511

This lovely riverside park, located in the town of Builth Wells, was used as rough grazing in the 19th century and the river still marks the boundary between the old counties of Brecknockshire and Radnorshire.

Starting from the car park, an easy, hard surfaced trail runs alongside the River Wye and through an avenue of trees (known locally as Abram's Folly) to the confluence where the River Wye and the River Lfon meet.

This level, linear option takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and offers excellent views of the surrounding countryside and the six arched bridge (built in 1775).

NB It is also possible to continue and complete a circular route which takes in part of the town.



27) Talybont-on-Usk Canal Towpath

CATEGORY 2 (BW)   (NEAREST FULLY ACCESSIBLE

TOILET IS BRECON CANAL BASIN)

EXPLORER OL13 GR SO112 227

For most of its 35-mile length the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal (originally built as a means to transport coal and iron) runs through the Brecon Beacons National Park with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. This accessible section of canal towpath located within Talybont on Usk is on level good surfaced paths, which stretch for a short way in either direction from the Lift Bridge located opposite the village stores/cafe. There is plenty of seating along the route and also some interpretation signage about the area.

NB Access up to the canal is either via an inclined zigzagged path opposite the stores or up an inclined minor road from a small car park.



28) Craig-y-Nos Country Park

CATEGORY 2 (BBNPA)   

EXPLORER OL12 GR SN840 155

Craig-y-nos Country Park is situated in the upper Tawe Valley to the south east of Brecon and within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Once inside the walled entrance below the car park, there is a choice of a short level circular trail around the fish pond or a longer undulating circular trail around the wider estate.

The longer trail which includes the Far Lake has clear signage indicating the easier access route through a rhododendron arch back to the start point. Bounded by the Afon Tawe and containing a former fishpond and the Far Lake, water is a dominant feature of the park. There is seating at regular intervals and a wheelchair accessible picnic bench invitingly sited just over the bridge on the edge of the river.

General accessibility is good, however, please note for the longer trail, visitors with visual impairments and wheelchair users may require assistance, as some of the path surfaces are not clearly defined and are uneven in places.



29) Brecon Promenade

CATEGORY 3    (UPPER MEADOW CAR PARK

SPORTS GROUND)

EXPLORER OL12 GR SO042 286

This linear trail is located in Brecon alongside the River Usk and has lovely river views. From the town end, access is over a very steep ramp adjacent to a small car park and then along a pleasant, tree lined, level section past the weir. The trail then goes up and down a long incline towards the cafe and boat hire before levelling out again as far as the sports field, where the hard surface ends and it becomes grass.

Starting the trail from the car park adjacent to the boathouse offers level access to the trail, however there is then the steep incline to negotiate before reaching the weir so most manual wheelchair users will require assistance in either direction.



30) Epynt Way

CATEGORY 3 (DE) 

EXPLORER 188 GR SN993 437

This trail is located off the B4519 Brecon to Garth road in an area known as Mynydd Epynt 'mountain (crossed by a) horse-path', which since 1939 has been the MOD Sennybridge Training Area. The trail starts next to the unmanned Epynt Visitor Centre and the section designated as easier access runs up an incline for approximately half a mile to a viewing point over this wild rugged mountain moorland landscape.

The accessible section of the trail is inclined for the entire route and most manual wheelchair users would need the assistance of a very fit/able assistant to reach the viewing point. Starting from the car park, assistance is also needed to get through the gate at the side of the cattle grid leading to the start of the trail.

There is seating at regular intervals along this section of the trail, however much of this is now accessed across very rough grass and wheelchair users and people with limited ambulant ability might have difficulty reaching them.

There are interpretation panels at several points and on our researchers' visit a wealth of typical high moorland birds could be seen.

Please note this is a remote area with rapidly changing weather conditions and waterproof clothing and stout footwear are advisable.

31) Hay-on-Wye Riverside Trail

CATEGORY 3  (ADJACENT TO T.I.C. IN TOWN)

EXPLORER OL13 GR SO230 428

As the name indicates this linear trail is located alongside the river in Hay-on-Wye and follows a section of the cycle track 'Lon Las Cymru 42'.

It is some distance from the designated parking in the Tourist Information Centre car park to the trail and wheeling from there to the trail access points could be challenging due to the steep/narrow pavements. Alternatively there is limited parking in a lay-by on the far side of Hay Bridge.



The access point from the bridge is very steeply sloped and most manual wheelchair users will require assistance from a very fit/able companion on descent and ascent. The alternative path down to the track located off Gypsy Castle Lane by the Church, has an uneven surface and is not wheelchair accessible.

The trail is located on part of a former railway track and having negotiated the access points is level wheeling, with the accessible section taking approximately 50 minutes to complete.

In high summer, tree foliage blocks much of the river view but there is a good viewing point over the river from under the bridge at the start of the trail. Also encroachment of tall nettles and other vegetation can effect the length of the path's accessibility.



32) Brecon National Park Mountain Visitor Centre

(BBNPA) 

EXPLORER OL12 GR SN977 262

The Brecon National Park Mountain Visitor Centre is located at Libanus approximately 6 miles from Brecon. It is signposted off the main A470 and accessed up a steep lane. As well as being an information point, it contains an interpretation area, a video room, an external viewing balcony with excellent views over the surrounding countryside and a cafe. Special events and family craft sessions are held throughout the year and details are available on the website.

The centre is set on a large area of common but please note due to the topography of the landscape access to this is restricted for people with limited ambulant ability and wheelchair users. Our self propelling manual wheelchair user researcher was able (with assistance) to wheel along the entrance road a short way and along an uneven rutted track across the common to a point with excellent views. However, more of the common may be accessible for visitors who have their own 'all-terrain' powered scooters as the tracks are not gated.

NB The National Park Authority produces a comprehensive Easier Access Guide which is available in a physical format from the centre or to download from their website in pdf.

Useful Contacts

Powys County Council Gwalia

Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AA. Tel 0845 602 7030

Disabled Holiday Information

(reg charity no.1119972), PO Box 186, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 1AF.

Brecknock Access Group

New Wing, Brecon War Memorial Hospital, Cerrigcochion Road, Brecon Powys, LD3 7NS. Tel 01874 611401 (answerphone only)

Brecknock Wildlife Trust (BWT)

Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7AY. Tel 01874 625708

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP. 01874 624437 or 01873 830328

British Waterways North Wales & Borders (BW)

Navigation House, Navigation Road, Northwich. Cheshire, CW8 1BH. Tel 01606 723800

Cadw (CADW)

Welsh Government, Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff, CF15 7QQ. Tel 01443 336000

Countryside Council For Wales (CCW)

Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW. Tel 0845 130 6229

Defence Estates (DE)

The Barracks, Brecon LD3 7EA . Tel 01874 613887

Elan Valley Visitor Centre

Elan Estate Office, Elan Village, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5HP. Tel 01597 810449

Forestry Commission Wales (FCW)

Welsh Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR. Tel 0300 068 0300

Gigrin Farm

South Street, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5BL. Tel 01597 810243

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT)

Warwick House, High Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AG. Tel 01597 823298

RSPB Lake Vyrnwy Visitor Centre

Llanwddyn, Welshpool, Powys, SY10 0ND. Tel 01691 870278

The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (MWT)

42 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. Tel 01938 555654

Y Plas

Machynlleth, Aberystwyth Road, Powys, SY20 8ER. Tel 01654 702571

Useful websites:

www.powys.gov.uk

www.disabledholidayinfo.org.uk

www.brecknockaccess.org.uk

www.brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk

www.breconbeacons.org

cadw.wales.gov.uk

www.ccw.gov.uk

www.elanvalley.org.uk

www.epyntway.org

www.forestry.gov.uk

www.gigrin.co.uk

www.montwt.co.uk

www.plasmachynlleth.co.uk

www.rspb.org.uk

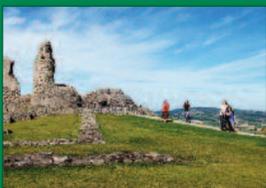
www.rwtwales.org

www.stwater.co.uk

www.waterscape.com

wales.gov.uk

Notes:



Cover image: Montgomery Castle

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.

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