

**Walk 5 Coed y Graig 2.5 miles/4 km
(Shorter walk 1.8m/2.9km) 1 hour +
woodland time Easy**

1 Start at the Waggon and Horses and walk down Dolafon Road towards the river and through the gap in the hedge at the bottom of the road (SO 114917). If muddy, there is a tarmac path on the left further down Dolafon Road. Climb up onto the river bank and turn left to follow the path along the top of the bank. At the end, the grass path drops down to a gate and joins a tarmac footpath/cycle route. Go under the pipe bridge and past the 'Old Pump House' which is behind a fence on your right.

The Pump House drew water from the Severn to supply the head of the canal. It was originally operated by a water wheel, later by steam and eventually by a diesel engine. It ceased operation in the 1940s.

2 Just after the next gate turn left to take the steps (SO 118923) up to Lower Canal Road. Across the road, to the left is Lonesome Lane, with a sign reading 'Woodland Walk 400m'. Walk up, passing 2 footpath signs at stiles on your left (you will return to the second one later). The Woodland Walk – Coed y Graig is on your right 250m further on (SO 117928).

A board at the entrance shows trails but you can stroll anywhere. The circular walk around the wood gives excellent views of Newtown and the surroundings. There are benches for picnics and you can forage in season for apples, crabapples, cherries, hazelnuts, sloes, elderflowers or

berries, haws, etc. Information about this wood and the Woodland Trust can be found at www.coed-cadw.org.uk

3 Leaving the wood retrace your steps down Lonesome Lane until you reach the first footpath sign on your right, which reads 'Woodland Walk 250m' (SO 115926). Cross the stile and head straight down the hill to a footbridge over the stream (SO 115925). The path leading to it can be slippery. Go up the opposite bank to the footpath sign and follow the fence around the property on your left.

4 This leads to a stile and a path between a hedge and fence and brings you out to a dead end leading to Sycamore Drive where you turn right and walk downhill. There are some lovely views ahead to Treowen and the hills beyond, and to the Bryn Bank off to your right.

At the junction with Canal Road, there are two options to complete this walk.

Option A, short way back to the pub

5 Turn left onto Canal Road and follow it to the left just past the second zebra crossing. Pass the Northside Recreation Centre on your right to a road sign reading 'Cae Cymric', also on the right, next to steps leading down to houses (SO 113918). Go down the steps, follow the path as it turns right and then left, along the open green space, and back to Lower Canal Road. The Waggon and Horses is across the road on the left.

Option B, slightly longer

6 Cross Canal Road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right, passing the Powys Theatre on your right. Turn left and walk down Frankwell Street (SO 109920) to steps up to the bridge at the end. Cross the river and turn left at the Elephant and Castle to follow the upper path parallel to the river, passing the ruin of St Mary's church on your right.

This 13th century church was built of stone from the river, included a double aisle and a wooden belfry. Due to frequent flooding the church fell into disrepair and was abandoned in 1856. In the church is a mausoleum erected in 1900 over the tomb of the Pryce family of Newtown Hall who were descendants of the mediaeval lords of the manor of Cedewain. Alongside the South wall stands the Tomb of Robert Owen (1771-1858), the social reformer, educationist, and native of the town.

7 The path leads to the Halfpenny Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge which replaced a toll bridge, 40m upstream, regularly swept away by floods. Cross the bridge to the track on the right along the top of the bank. Follow this until it meets the lower tarmac path passing under the Cambrian Road Bridge. Go immediately back up onto the top of the bank. Leave the path via a gate on to Dolafon Road. Turn right and follow the road to arrive back at the pub.

Waggon and Horses

This local pub offers real ale and excellent food. Check with the pub for current opening hours.
Phone: 01686 625790

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