

Henllys Circular Walk

Torfaen South East Wales

Explore **our**
Countryside

Henllys Circular Walk

This is a circular walk linking directly with the urban areas of Henllys, Coed Eva and Fairwater, Cwmbran. The walk proceeds up on to Mynydd Henllys and returns via farmland to the south. The route is approximately 7 km (4.5 miles) and will take about 2.5 hours to complete.



Henllys

The name means 'Old Court' and refers to the place where the ruler held his court (llys) in the pre-Norman Commote of Machen, ie. the upland portion of the Cantref of Gwynllwg. It was later moved to Machen. The spelling of Henllys has changed several times over the years from Hentllys in the C18, Henllis in the C17, Henlis in the C16 and Henthles or Henllyse in the C13.

The Board School

The school was opened on 31 October 1878. After the master, Mr Albart died in 1887, the school was taken over by the Edwards family. Mr Edwards was the master and his wife and three children all taught there.

Conditions at the school were primitive. One local resident recalls a big rain-water butt in the school yard for washing. Another recalls how cold it was in the winter with just an open fire in the infants' room, an old tortoise stove in the big room and an open fire in the top room.

School inspectors' reports often referred to the relationship between poor attendance and bad weather conditions. At that time the position of the school was isolated and frequently, the road to the school was impassable.

Extract from 'The Pontypool Free Press'

Dated 8 June 1892

'Accident at Henllys Colliery - a man was knocked down and run over by a loaded tram. The injured limb is crushed so badly that amputation will be necessary.'

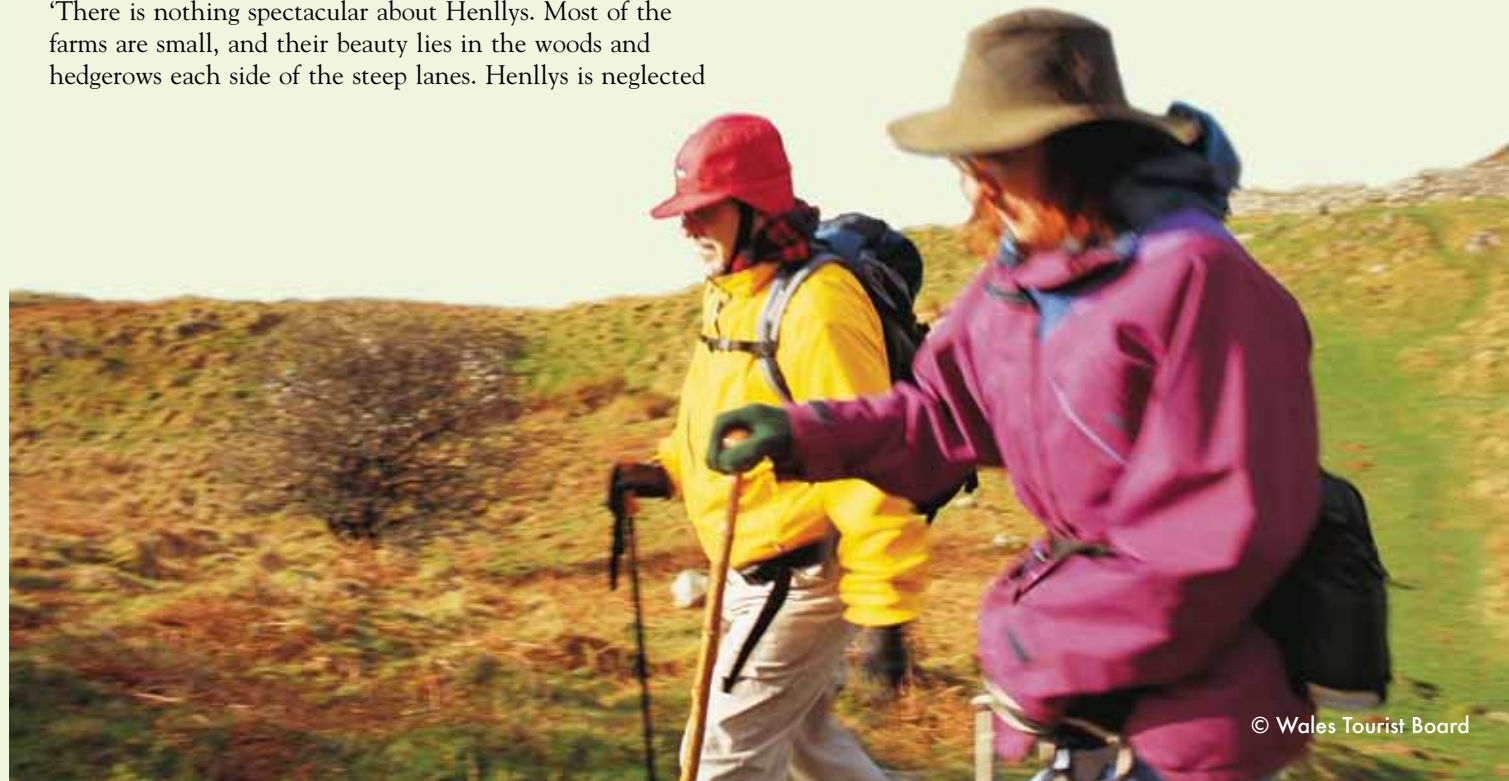
Extract from 'Monmouthshire'

by O Phillips - Published 1951

'There is nothing spectacular about Henllys. Most of the farms are small, and their beauty lies in the woods and hedgerows each side of the steep lanes. Henllys is neglected



by visitors to this part of the country unless they are directed there by kind friends, or become entangled in the lanes by misdirection or accident; yet there are those who know Henllys who become so attached to it that their walks are taken in no other direction.'



Henllys Circular Walk

There is a small car park located at the start of the walk and cars can also be parked on a number of adjoining highways.

Start on Penylan Road, opposite the entrance to Farlays and take the short surfaced path down to 'The Incline' footpath. Turn right and walk uphill, passing through the subway under the road.

You are now following the line of the dismantled tramway which used to run from Henllys Colliery to the canal at Two Locks.

After going through a second subway you will pass Incline Cottage on your left and then Nant-y-bryn and Machine Cottage on your right. Bear right around Machine Cottage and continue walking a short way up the lane, passing through the gate on your left.

Keeping the electricity pylon on your right, head towards the top left hand corner of the field and cross the stile on to the road.

You may wish to leave the circular walk for a few minutes and take the road to your right passing Old Row to your left and New Row to your right. The houses in this part of the village were built to house the miners of Henllys Colliery and the oldest date back to the late 1800's. Approximately 140 metres further up the road, where it forks, is Mount Pleasant Baptist Chapel. This little chapel, which was built in 1843 and seats 200 people, is still in regular use today. Retrace your steps back along the road to the last stile you crossed.

Go over the stile on the opposite side of the road, keeping Old Row on your right. Continue up hill following the fenceline on your left.

You will arrive at the site of the former Henllys Colliery mine workings. Disused quarries can be seen to your right and in front of you.

Walk on up the hill, following the waymarks until you reach the stile which leads onto the well-defined track across the common.

Turn left and follow the track for approximately 500 metres, enjoying the panoramic views to the east. Look for the stile on your left and follow the path towards Pant-yr-yrfa.

Keeping the farm house on your right and the fence on your left, walk downhill and cross the stile adjacent to a gate. About 75 metres further on you will come to another gate and stile on your left.

Walk diagonally across the field, following the waymarks, and cross into the next field. Look across to your left for the waymark post and cross the stile.

Follow the path, which after a little while, swings around to the left, down towards the stream. The next section of the route passes through a picturesque wooded gully. The banks drop steeply to the stream and you are advised to take extra care.

Cross the stream, turn right and continue through the trees, with the stream on your right.

Follow the path around to the left, keeping the fenceline to your left. Use the bridge to cross the wet area and follow the waymarks to the next stile.

Continue down hill towards the access track, which leads to Ty Trappau Farm, keeping the tree plantation to your right. Go over the stile on the opposite side of track and cross the field, keeping the fence line on your right.

When you reach the tarmaced road at Pensarn Farm, pass between the garages, then between the fences, and cross the stile into the field.

Carry on along the path under the line of the overhead cables and cross the stile in the hedgeline on your left, just before you reach the corner of the field. Follow the field boundary to your right until you pass Pen-y-werlod on your right.

Immediately after passing Pen-y-werlod, turn right and cross over the stile on to the access lane.

Proceed left along the

lane, passing the old village school on your right.

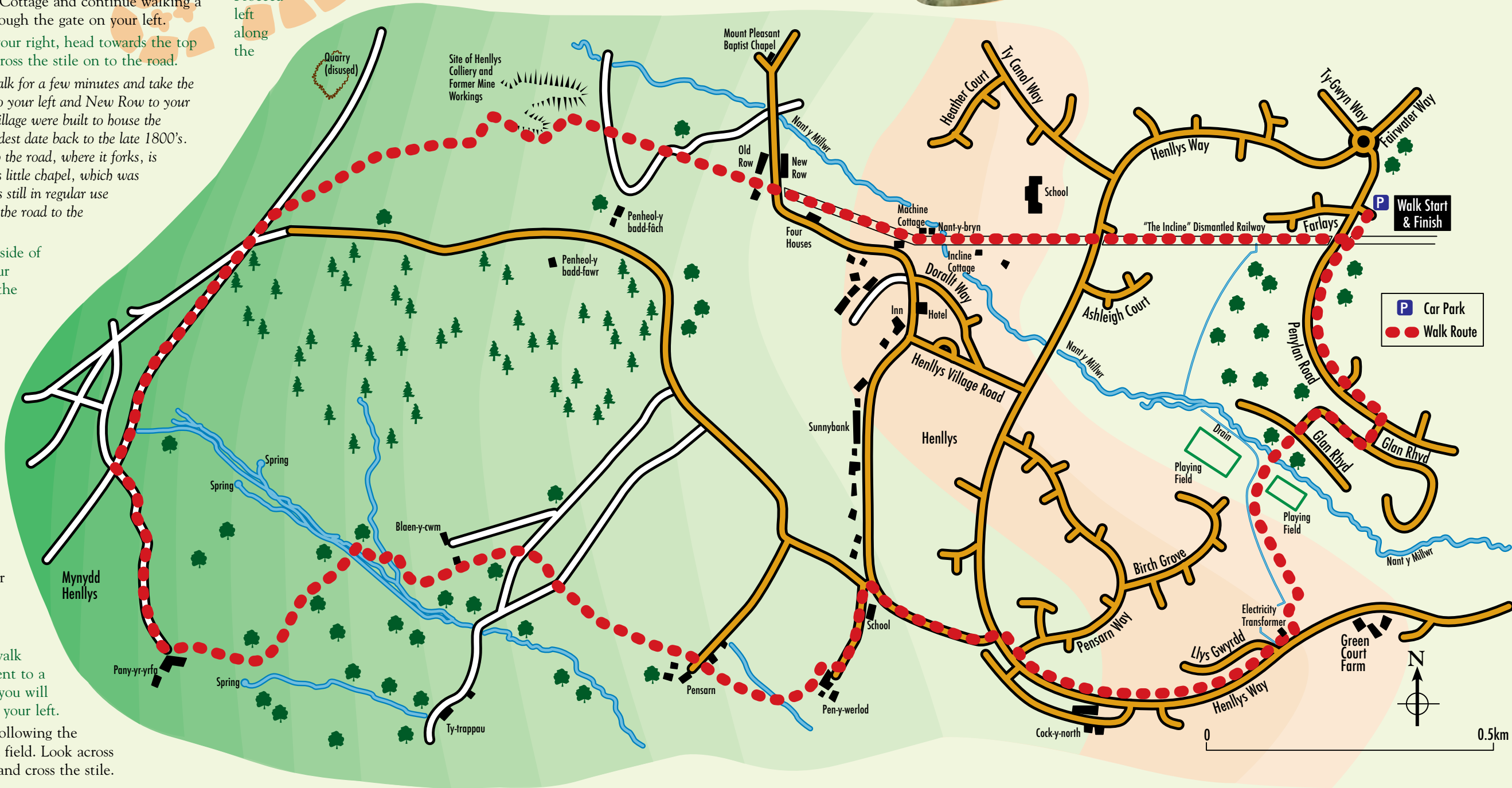
When you reach the road junction, turn right and continue along for approx 250 metres until you reach Henllys Way. Cross this busy road with extreme care and turn right.

Walk along the pavement for approximately 600 metres until you come to a gateway on your left, next to an electricity transformer.

Go through the gateway and follow the waymarked track across the open space, heading for the trees. Cross the stream and walk through the wooded area and out on to Glan Rhyd.

Walk down the road around the corner to the right, and then to the left, exiting on to Penylan Road. Cross the road when safe to do so and turn left.

Continue on along the footpath until you return to your starting point where Penylan Road crosses 'The Incline'.



Countryside Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work;
- Guard against all risk of fire;
- Leave all gates and property as you find them;
- Keep your dogs under close control, preferably on a lead as there may be other animals along the route;
- Keep to public paths;
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls;
- Leave livestock and machinery alone;
- Take your litter home;
- Help to keep all water clean;
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees;
- Take special care on country roads.

Advice for Walkers

To get the most enjoyment from walking and exploring Torfaen's varied countryside, making use of an ordnance survey map is strongly recommended. The countryside can change rapidly and way-markers can easily be missed.

Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear in case of muddy and slippery surfaces.

Walking is a perfect activity to improve your physical health, it can help your circulation and maintain a healthy heart!

Some of the paths referred to are not Public Rights of Way but are permissive paths or are across common land which enjoys open access.

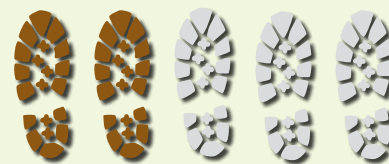
Public Transport

Torfaen has a good network of public transport. To plan your journey visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Tourist Information Centre

Blaenavon Tourist Information Centre provides information on days out, attractions, accommodation, activities and route planning in the area.

Tel: 01495 792615, or visit: www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Difficulty of walk - 2 (easy)



Os hoffech gopi o'r ffurflen yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r
Gwasanaethau Cefn Gwlad Torfaen



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