



Follow the Nant Ffrwd upstream for a short distance, crossing via a bridge. Climb diagonally right, up the tip opposite following the waymarks carefully, heading to the roof of the red brick mine building at the farm drive. Turn right, past the building of the old Varteg Hill or Vipond's top, in 1848. The seams here were low and water in the galleries meant that the miners used waders. Many men working later became victims of pneumoconiosis. Behind are the ruins of Colliery Row.

The views from here are excellent. Garndiffaith in the foreground with its 1876 railway viaduct (now part of the Eastern Valley cycletrack), Mynydd Garn Wen above the town, and to the right of that, straight down the Afon Lwyd Valley to the town of Varteg. The whole of the western mountainside between Pontypool and Blaenavon was leased by the Hanburys for £100 a year to supply their Pontypool forges with ore. The drive follows the line of a mineral railway serving Varteg Hill Colliery and other workings at the head of the valley.

Continue along the track, past the cattle grid, for approximately 1 mile until it veers round towards the left. Follow this route and take the right hand fork after approximately 400 metres. Just before Salisbury Terrace take a right turn into Pembroke Place and past Pembroke terrace until joining a track. Follow this route for approximately 400 metres, until reaching a main road (Varteg Road).

Take the small road immediately to the right off Varteg Road, walking past Greenfield Terrace further down. At the bottom of the road turn left at the T-junction and right at New Road, past St John's Burial Ground.

Take care where the road narrows and the pavement disappears. Continue along this road to return to the rugby club car park.

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.blaenavontic.com

Website

For information on other circular walks in Torfaen, as well as details of the various activities in the area, visit the Countryside Services website at:-

www.countryside.torfaen.gov.uk

