Hike

A Refreshing Walk

Route Guide

Difficulty: Medium Distance: 8.52 miles Elevation: 546 meters

GPS download: [Garmin]







A Refreshing Walk

This walk being around 8.5 miles will take between 3-4 hours to complete with 546 metres of elevation. It will take us along various historical parts of our countryside including Bryn Yorkin, Caergwrle Packhorse Bridge and Caergwrle Spa and back up into the hills through Ffrwd Old Quarry and Ffrith Quarry. This walk will include a mixture of road, fields, woodland, bridleways and footpaths and will include quite a few hills.

The Route

1. Starting at the Cross Keys, Llanfynydd, we turn left out of the car park and head up straight up the steep Ffordd Las road, we stay on this road for just over a mile going right up to the top and over down toward the Cymau.

2. Just before entering Cymau we take a left turn going back up a road traversing along Cymau. After about half a mile we take the public footpath going over a stile on the right with great views over Cheshire. We then head straight down across the field into the small woodland behind Bryn Yorkin, the path bears left through the woods and then turn right towards the back of the cottages.

3. We then walk through Bryn Yorkin a grade 2 listed building along the big drive and out through the old gate posts, straight away we turn left over a stile over into a field that usually has either a horse or sheep in so please keep dogs on a lead. We head straight through this field and into an apple orchard, keeping to the footpath along the top into the woods.

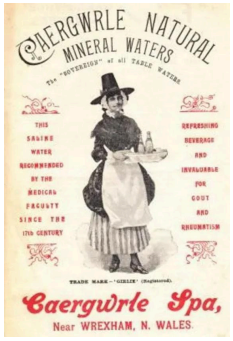


4. We go over a stile into the woods and turn right heading downhill amongst oak trees, holly bushes and in the springtime the woods is covered in bluebells. We don't walk far till we exit the woods and go on to Bryn Yorkin road. We carry on left and turn left again at the road junction following the road all the way down to Caergwrle car park.

5. Taking care we cross the road and head straight down the next lane to get to Derby Road and head down the bridleway alongside the old Derbys Arms pub, which is now a house. The bridleway is paved here and has a steep descent till we get to cross the River Alyn along the old packhorse bridge which is said to be over 300 years old and could have originated from the owner of Bryn Yorkin.

6. Once crossing the bridge we head straight back up the other side entering into Hope. Here we turn right onto the main road and follow the road down for a short while before turning left

before going over the bridge up Rhyddyn Hill. Here we will pass the old entrance to Caergwrle Spa, which unfortunately closed down a long time ago so won't be getting a refreshing glass of spring water from here today. We follow the road up for a short while before turning left onto a public footpath.



7. This path takes up into the woods and we follow the path all the way around the woodland (which is great for chestnuts in the autumn) until we cut right into the woods and back out onto Rhyddyn Hill road. Here we join the road to the right for a short while before turning left onto a bridleway which we follow for a while and if you look to the right you can see the Spa and the old bottling building. Before we hit a farm at the end of the bridleway we turn right along a footpath through some fields alongside a small stream.



8. We join up with another footpath and go over a small bridge where we come out into another field heading straight across this field to trees slightly to the left, eventually entering the woods through a stile and follow on walking alongside the River Alyn. We follow this woodland footpath right the way till the end until we come out to the Llay Road.

9. Turning right we follow the Llay road for a short while up to the Hollybush Pub, taking care to cross this busy road we head down the Ffrwd road on the right then left. Straight away you cross the Ffrwd road and head up a gravel track/drive, there are no signposts here for a footpath but there is a really good hidden gem of a footpath here 🙂

10. Keep walking up this gravel road and it will eventually turn into a single track footpath and you go through a gate and walk up alongside the Ffrwd road below us along a boardwalk all the way up to the Ffrwd Pub. Where there is no boardwalk it can get a bit muddy here in the winter and some of the planks are in need of repair so keep an eye on where you are putting your feet but the majority of it is fine and is a lot better than having to walk alongside the road.



11. When we get to the pub, turn right up Barracks Lane, walk up this steep road for a short time and turn left into the entrance of the Ffrwd Quarry. You will be greeted with a big open space/field and we want to head diagonally right up a gradual hill towards a stream, when you hit the stream keep walking alongside it going uphill. Eventually the steam disappears and this is where we cross over and carry on going uphill to the fence line, follow the fence line right to the corner of the field. This park

now has horses in there that roam free and are very friendly.

12. Once we get to the corner of the field there will be a stile which we go over downhill on a path surrounded by hedges and trees and then uphill up some wooden steps back up to the top on the other side. Keep following the path alongside a few houses and along a track until we end up back on a road. Turn right here onto the road, you will see the tin chapel on your right, keep following the road round to the left till you come to the old Cymau Post Office.



13. Turn left onto the main road of Cymau crossing the road and just after passing the community centre turn right into a housing estate following the road alongside the front of the houses and then turning right when you hit the next road, going uphill following this road round that bears left. Keep following this lane right to the end until you come across a gate to a footpath. Walk along this footpath for some time until you have a fork in the path, don't take the left path and follow the one straight ahead. Keep following this path and you will get some great views of Nant y Ffrith, the village of Ffrith and the viaduct. Keep following the path round through the ferns which can get quite overgrown during the summer going over a stile and up some slightly steep rocky paths where you will be greeted with some great views of Llanfynydd, so close to finishing.

14. We then follow the footpath sign turning left down a steep hill, through a little wooded area and above a house, going over a stile and wall, moving along the drive to the house walking away from the house as the drive bends left there is a footpath heading right on the bend. We take this and then take the path to the right heading up the path towards Ffrith Quarry. Again there are great views of Llanfynydd from here and you can just about make out where the old tracks would have been for the quarry. Turn right following the footpath sign into the woodland and into the old quarry.

15. Keep following the footpath here that can get very overgrown in the summer and very wet and muddy in the winter, it can be hard going in place with routes and rocks so take care on foot. Again this woodland is great during the spring with an amazing showing of bluebells. Eventually we come to a stile and go over into a field, stick to the left of this field going straight over to another stile and into another field, again stick to the left and go straight across to the gate. Going through the gate we are back on the road from where we started. Head straight down to this road for a drink at our local The Cross Keys and you are back to where we started.



Please Note: All walkers hike at their own risk and the Cross Keys or people guiding this walk cannot be held responsible for any personal injury to themselves or any third party... and for any loss or damage to any personal property.