

**Walk description:**

The walk explores the area around part of the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. Work began on the canal in 1796 near Llangattock, reaching Brecon in 1800. The southern section, including that at Goytre was completed in 1812.

Electric mobility scooters can usually tackle the area at all times. Whilst assisted large-wheel wheelchair users may be able to tackle the grassy walk sections in periods of very dry weather.

Just a short distance off the main Truck Road between Pontypool and Abergavenny with bus services, the walk offers an easy public transport linked option to reach the Goytre Wharf complex. The walk route and centre are 'Barrier Free' without any stiles. The walk includes two short, steep surfaced sections.

The Goytre Wharf complex includes limekilns next to the canal where limestone and coal could be offloaded straight off the barge into the top of the kiln.

**Access information:**

Train Stations are at Pontypool and Abergavenny where bus services run along the A4042 Trunk Road to our start point which is The North bound Bus stop situated north of Penperlleni and south of Llanover villages.

Bus stop Route X3, 20, 22 Timetable 08706082608  
www.traveline.org.uk followed by notice at bus stop are the most up to date and therefore accurate.

No dropped kerb currently available from raised bus stop platforms and footways to carriageway level.

This walk description starts at this bus stop and passes through the nearest car park, where the circuit element of the route commences.

The car journey direct to the Goytre Wharf Heritage, Activity and Visitor Centre is signed from the road and is a 2-mile journey along mainly narrow roads.

Checked 24th January 2005 - Monmouthshire Countryside Service

**Additional info:**

Goytre Wharf Complex - The main building houses restaurant/café, toilets, exhibitions, and information center.

The grounds have fenced pond, children plays equipment, quiz structures and all surrounded by Forestry Commission woodland with trails. You can purchase activity sheets and books for the area and there are CCTV monitoring of nesting birds in season.

The boatyard has a wealth of boats and canal related paraphernalia for the enthusiast and novice alike. This includes Lime Kilns sitting directly below the canal side.

There are a number of steep banks, unprotected canal edges and barrier chains strung across vehicle access points, which can be difficult to see.

The Centre offers a chance to spend a quick half hour to a day exploring and taking part in the activities, touring all the exhibits and partaking of refreshments.

**Start grid ref:** SO319059

**OS map:** Explorer O.L.13

**Walk length:** 1.58 miles

**Duration:** 120 minutes

**Height gain:** 35 metres

**Contributor:** Ian Smith

**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

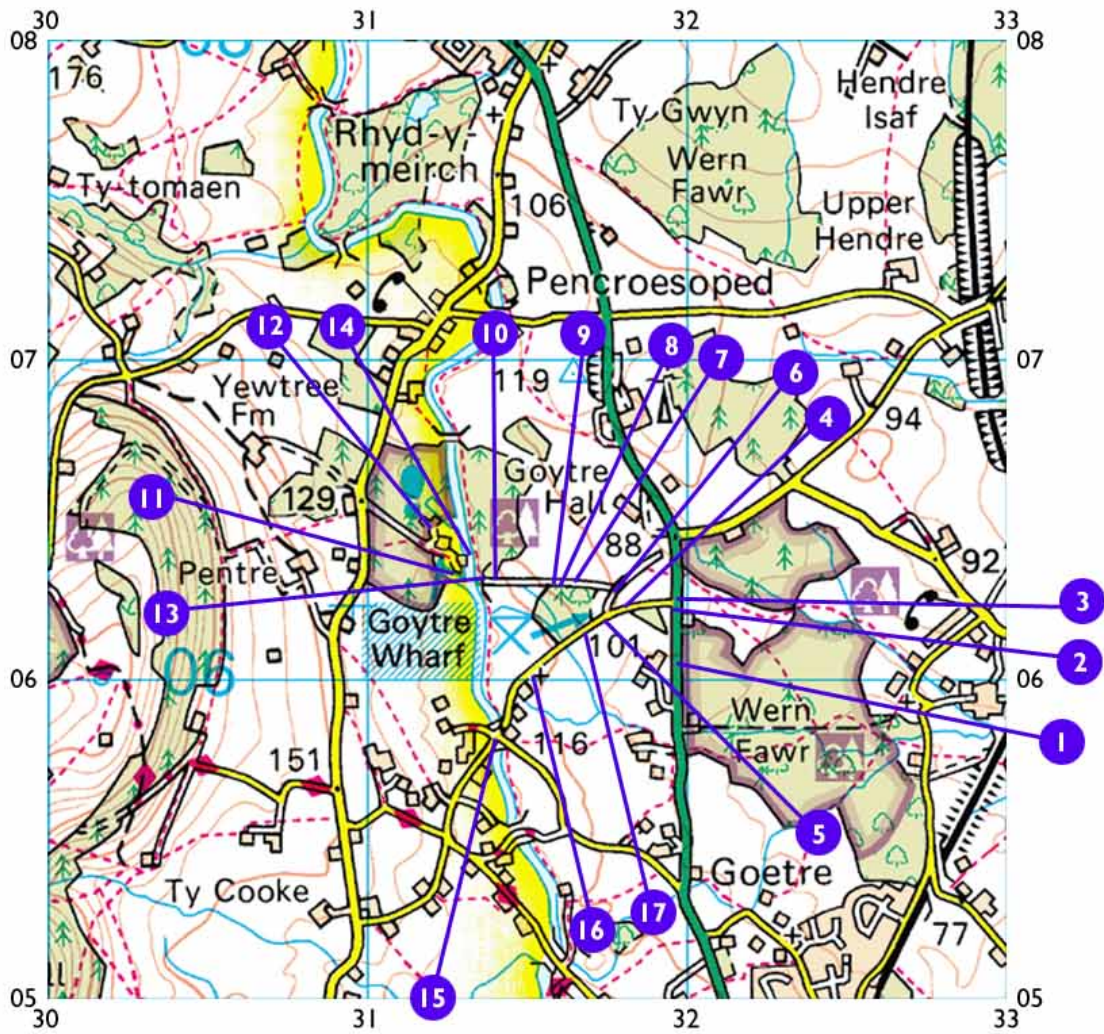
Call 09068 020 510 from your phone or mobile. Or dial 09065 22 45 03 from your fax machine to receive a fax.  
09068 calls 60p/min, 09065 calls £1.50p/min.

**Features:**

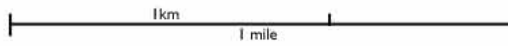
- Toilets
- Museum
- Play Area
- Wildlife
- Birds
- Flowers
- Great Views
- Good for Wheelchairs
- Butterflies
- Cafe
- Gift Shop
- Good for Kids
- Industrial Archaeology
- Mostly Flat
- Public Transport
- Nature Trail
- Tea Shop

1: 50 000 (x2)

### Goytre Wood – Goytre Wharf - Goytre Wood Circular



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- 1**  From the northbound bus stop, follow the footway north for 220m to next road junction. (Grid ref: 319059)
- 2**  At junction, footway ends at 150mm kerb. Enter carriageway and turn left following the verge of Saron Road. (Grid ref: 319061)
- 3**  Saron Road is wide, relatively straight and has good visibility for vehicle drivers. (Grid ref: 319061)
- 4**  At the next junction, turn right into a tarmaced lane, which is the access to Goytre Hall Wood car park. (Grid ref: 317061)
- 5**  The Goytre Hall Wood ladder sign at the lane junction, viewed close up. (Grid ref: 317061)
- 6**  The lane leads to the small car park on the left side. In the first parking bay a stone dust path leads up to the two picnic tables and before continuing into the woodland. This northeast corner of the wood was previously planted with Sequoia trees. These were mostly felled in September 1999 and the area now is regenerating, birch and willow make a dense area of coppice. The rest of the wood still has Bluebells under a canopy of mature oak, beech and some larch. 3.5Ha overall. (Grid ref: 317062)
- 7**  Follow the path through the coppice woodland for 170 metres. As you enter a remaining stand of Sequoia (Feel the soft bark), bear right after 15 metres and reach a 4 foot pedestrian gate at the woodland edge. (Grid ref: 316062)
- 8**  Go through the gate into the field and immediately turn left onto a grassy farm track. Please remember to re-secure any gate latch. (Grid ref: 316062)
- 9**  Follow the grassy track for 230 metres, firstly along the edge of Goytre Hall Wood and then continue alongside a ditched stream with low hedge. In winter and after rain the track can be wet and muddy in places, especially after farm animals have been present. But keep to the center of the track and the hard stone surfacing underneath will see you through. The soft verges can be - well - very soft! A chance to go slow and enjoy the open field vista with views of the nearby woods and hills in the background. (Grid ref: 316062)



- 10**  The track leads straight to adjacent field and pedestrian gates, which you pass through. Another 50 metres brings you to a short stone aqueduct carrying the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal above you. (Grid ref: 314063)
- 11**  At the aqueduct, make a choice to visit the Goytre Wharf complex ahead first or just complete the walk only. You can pass under the canal aqueduct (and across the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park) directly into the Goytre Wharf complex. Open 10am -4-5pm, 7 days a week. After visiting the center, return back to this same point here to complete the circular walk. (Grid ref: 313063)
- 12**  An elevated view of the Goytre Wharf complex seen from above the aqueduct from a pathway inside the center grounds. Bottom right is Aqueduct Cottage, now a holiday cottage available to rent through British Waterways. (Grid ref: 312064)
- 13**  Continuing with the walk only. Facing the aqueduct, a stony track leads up to the right, immediately behind a large information panel supported on square posts. The walk route continues up this steep track for 25metres at 16 degrees. This is the longest and steepest part of the whole circuit with one other 8-metre section at the far end of the canal towpath section. (Grid ref: 313063)
- 14**  At the top of the ramped track, the level canal towpath is reached. This usually provides views of moored boats and the Goytre Wharf buildings set against the woodland behind. But early morning canal mists can often obscure this. Turn sharp left at this point and walk along the towpath with the canal on your right side. This takes you immediately across the aqueduct back over the tunnel you have just seen below. Continue to follow the canal towpath for 550 metres. Moisture loving Alder trees growing either side of the canal provide welcome shade in hot sunny weather. (Grid ref: 313063)
- 15**  The next canal bridge you reach is No. 74, with the number appearing on the far side only. This is where you leave the towpath by ascending 8metres of 15-degree stony path to the tarmac road. Please BEWARE that the top of the path meets a road, by the summit of this hump back bridge, on a blind corner. Turn left at the roadside and follow this pleasant winding tarmac road as it passes a mosaic of fields and scattered hamlet houses. Well worth taking your time along here to drink in the countryside scenery. Remain mindful of any vehicle traffic, which is usually very light, or absent - and so can be unexpected when it does appear! (Grid ref: 314058)
- 16**  The lane continues to descend very slowly for some 370metres (at a maximum slope of 5 degrees). Pass the high white walls of the Saron Baptist Church (built in 1823), to meet the corner of Goytre Hall Wood. Here, the gentle sound of a trickling stream leaving the wood and crossing the road below you can often be heard. The lane then starts to ascend again for some 140 metres (again at 5 degrees maximum) alongside the woodland boundary hedge of holly and beech. (Grid ref: 315060)

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Just after the road levels off, the woodland ends and then the next junction is reached. Turn left here to return to the car park or carry straight on to return to the main road and bus stops.

(Grid ref: 317061)