

Save Our Cardiff Reservoirs Walk

It is recommended you follow the route set out in the **BRONZE ROUTE DESCRIPTION** below. Use in conjunction with an OS map, preferably the 1:25000 map no. 151.

Times shown in *italics* (eg. *35 min*) are only a guide and don't allow for any 'puff' stops, 'pew' stops or 'view' stops! Distances are shown as '10m' for example, which is 10 metres.

Also this is the third event and we've tried to improve the route descriptions for each event and clarify any ambiguities. However we may have still not accurately described all the route so if you can let us know any problems in the route descriptions when you get back it'll help walkers at future events.

(*) To help with navigation, at a few locations we've tied red ribbon to a marker post, etc. So in the notes if you see an asterix (*), then at this location you should see some **red ribbon** (unless its been removed by others!).

BRONZE Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 5 TO CHECKPOINT 4

You'll be dropped off on Rhiw Ddar, a road in Taffs Well. Take the path between the green fence and timber fence (more-or-less opposite house no. 68). When it joins the Taff Trail after a metal style go **L** on the tarmac path. Pass a marker post on the **R** with a bridleway sign. Ignore and stay on the tarmac path. Shortly after a house off to your **R** is a metal style also on the **R** (*10 min*). Go through the style and you'll see a 'Taff Trail' sign in front of you. Here you have a path going off **L** (downhill) or **R** (uphill towards the house). Take the **R** and pass the access driveway to the house and continue uphill. Just after going under a large pipe at some bridge abutments (the bridge deck has previously been removed) go over a wooden style on the **L**, sign posted 'Ffordd y Bryniau'. Keep on the main path and go uphill towards a mast on your **L**. At the mast keep to the path uphill with a fence boundary and trees on your **L**. This boundary eventually becomes a stone wall and shortly after you get to a junction of paths with a track going **L** to **R**. Go **R**. When you join a larger track go **L**. At a marker post at a fork in the track go **L**. Continue on the unmade path to the summit of Craig yr Allt (**Grid Ref 134851**) (*40 min*).

Stay on main dirt path along ridge and ignore any smaller grassy paths joining. At the next junction of paths go **L** then under a powerline. Follow the path down to a metal gate and onto the road (**Grid Ref. 140852**) (*55 min*). At the road with a finger post go **L**. Keep on the road and pass a yellow grit box on your **R**, access to Ffwrn Bwla then a house both also on your **R**.

Shortly after the house you pass a small disused quarry on your **L**. Continue a bit further to a road junction. Go **L**. Continue on the road downhill for a few minutes and you reach a hairpin turn off **R**. Fixed to the retaining wall at the junction are arrows for the 'Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk'. Take this **R** hairpin turn-off. A sign ahead shows 'Cwm Farm'. Keep on the road and go past a 'Road Ahead Closed' sign on the **L** (road closed to vehicles only). Go past a 'No Entry' sign to vehicles fixed to a stone in the track at a sharp bend **L**. Go **R** at a marker post on your **R** (opposite a kissing gate on your **L**). There's a 'Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk' arrow fixed to the marker post. At a fork take the **L** (to the **R** is a pylon).(*) At the next fork (where the paths seem to run parallel) take the **L**. At the top of the ridge at a 'T' junction take the **R** on a larger path. Keep on the main track (can be a bit muddy) and ignore any paths joining. At the next marker post (*) (**Grid Ref. 147853**) (*90 min*) where five tracks meet take the larger track **L** (if you were arriving at a roundabout it would be the second turn-off – first turn-off is a grassy track downhill - ignore).

* Red Ribbon tied to peg in ground

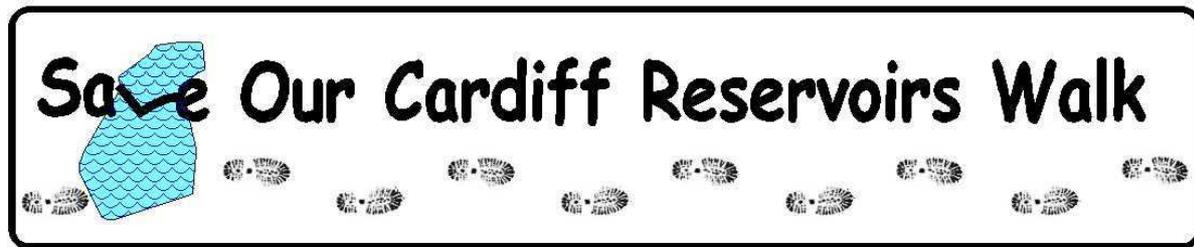
* Red Ribbon tied to post.

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You shortly arrive at a road junction, cross the main road **with care!** (A469) to the finger post opposite and go right for a few metres where a track joins from the **L** with a signboard for Caerphilly Common. Turn **L** onto this track. At the next finger post signed 'Ridgeway Walk' turn **R** then almost immediately the path forks. Take the **L**. Where the path crosses go straight on uphill. Very shortly you arrive at the trig point on the summit of Caerphilly Mountain, **Checkpoint 4! (Grid Ref 153855) (100 min)**.

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Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 4 TO CHECKPOINT 3

From **Checkpoint 4** go downhill towards the cafe. When you reach the road at two large stones, one either side of the path, cross over to have the cafe on your left.

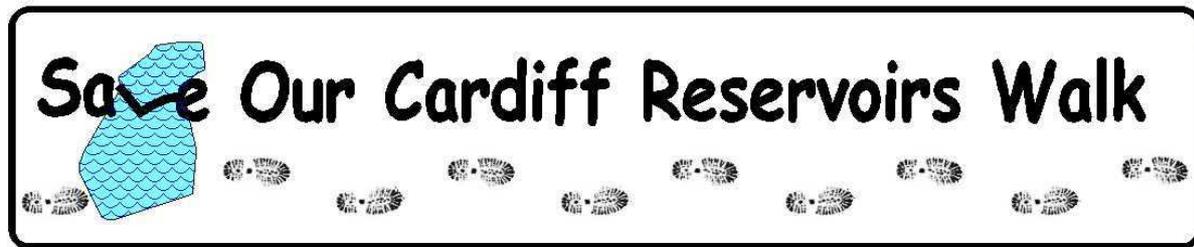
From the cafe go downhill to the junction with the main road (A469) and cross over to join an unmade track to the **L**. Follow the track passing a house at a sharp bend **L**. The track becomes grassy after the bend. Continue on this path and ignore any turn-offs. Shortly you pass under pylons and then reach a marker post at a fork in the track. Take the **L** fork downhill. Cross a style and continue on the grassy path ahead to a line of mature trees on a ridge. The path becomes a bit indistinct here. When you reach the line of trees on the small ridge if you look ahead then down the slope in front of you is a wooden post and broken style. Go past this style to the **L** and continue on the path. At the next field boundary is a style and post with 3 arrows. Take the track arrowed **L**, the one nearest the fence boundary on the **L**. Keep tight to the fence on your **L** until you reach some trees in the corner of the field. Next to the trees (on your **L**) is a style. Cross the style and go **R** keeping a line of smallish trees on your **R** going downhill. Keep descending and just after a steeper section you'll reach a track with a gate and style on your **R** which has several waymarking arrows fixed to it. Don't go through the gate, turn **L** to go away from the gate and follow the track. At a fork go **R** then cross a wooden bridge and just after the bridge pass through a metal gate. Keep on the track through the golf course passing marker posts and shortly before the club house is a finger post. (120 min) Continue straight on (on the finger post its signposted 'Cefn Onn').

Just after the finger post the path forks. Take the **R** and pass a green outbuilding with a 'Rhyrne Valley Ridgeway Walk' marker post in front of the building. Then go through a gate and pass a farmhouse on your **L**. Pass through another gate and continue on an unmade path to the road. At the road turn **L** uphill (for about 50m). At a post box cross the road and go through the gate opposite.

You are on the ridgeway and the path is mostly stony from here to Checkpoint 3 (that is if you find you're on a grassy track from here to Checkpoint 3 then you've taken the wrong path). Shortly go through another gate and continue on the path slightly uphill. Then through another gate. Follow marker posts for the Rhyrne Valley Ridgeway Walk. Then through a further gate. At a short steepish downhill track with a marker post (**Grid Ref. 169850**) on the **R** a path joins from the **L** (*). Make sure you go **L** uphill (not **R** downhill). After a short distance you come to a gate (**Grid Ref. 168852**). Just after the gate (with a marker post for the Rhyrne Valley Ridgeway Walk) the path forks.

* Red Ribbon tied to post

Take the **R**. Pass a sign 'Loose Animals – Keep Dogs on lead'. Then pass a sign on your **R** 'Danger Quarry Edge'. Make sure you keep to the path at this location! Pass a marker post on you **L** and continue, ignoring any tracks joining the main path to arrive at **Checkpoint 3 (Grid Ref. 176852)**. (160 min)



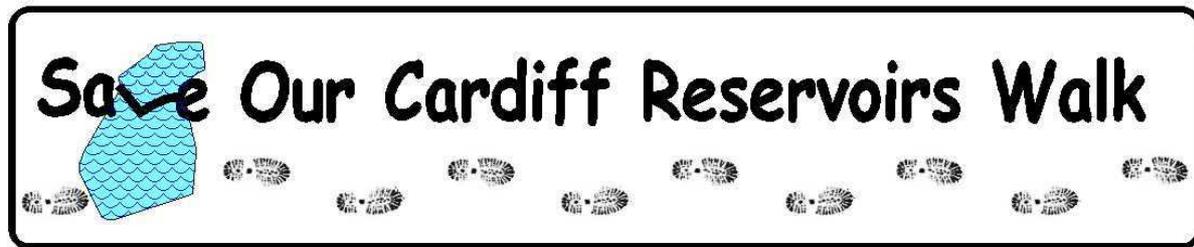
Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 3 TO CHECKPOINT 2

*There's a view of Flatholm, Penarth and Cardiff from a mound approximately 100m to the east of the checkpoint, off the main SOCRW route). At the Checkpoint marker post the arrow shows 'straight on' (or east) for the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk. A path joins here from the **R**. Take this path **R** (south) and go downhill off the ridgeway. From here the path is unmade and gravelly until Parc Cefn Onn, things to look out for:*

At a sharp bend **L** ignore the large track joining from the **R**. At another bend **L** ignore a small track joining from the **R**. Go through a double timber gate. Pass a marker post on the **R**, a large circular brick ventilation shaft for a railway tunnel, a marker post on the **R** by a bench (*175 min*) (here ignore a path **R** and stay on the main path with a sharp **L** turn). Cross a small stream piped under the path. At a large wooden gate by a marker post with a brick building to your **L** don't go through the gate, stay on the path downhill and pass a golf course on your **R**. At another metal gate ignore the path joining from the **L** and continue downhill through the opening to the **R** of the gate. Keep your eyes peeled because after a couple of minutes you get to the plastic mesh boundary fence of Cefn Onn Country park on your **R**. Just before the start of this boundary fence a small path goes to the **R** to enter an opening in the fence into the park. Take this path. You quickly join the main path at a marker post (**also an unmanned Checkpoint on the Copper Route Only**), at the path junction turn **L**. At an opening in a fence to exit the upper park cross over and go through the opening in another fence opposite to enter the lower park. Stay on the tarmac path through the lower park. Eventually you go through a subway under the motorway to come out at a car park. Go past a building and bike stands on your **R** and follow the access road out of the park to join the main road (Cherry Orchard Road). At the entrance to the park go **L** along the main road then go **R** into the car park for Lisvane/Thornhill train station. Cross the station footbridge to come out onto Clos Llys Faen road and go **R** along Clos Llys Faen.

After a few hundred metres the road bends to the **R** and you'll have an open area of green in front of you with a tarmac path going off **L** from the footway. Take this path then after 20m go through a kissing gate on the **L** at a 'Coed y Felin' noticeboard. At a junction of paths turn **L** (if you turn **R** you have stepping stones across the river. If you cross these you'll know you have taken the wrong turn!) At the next junction turn **L** and go uphill. At the next kissing gate with a tree sculpture go through it and almost immediately you'll reach a marker post with an arrow and several paths meeting. At this junction of paths turn **L** up rough track steps. At the top of the steps take the path on the **L** uphill. At the next junction of paths with a larger path crossing turn **R**. Ignore any paths crossing **L** & **R** and go straight on. Exit Coed y Felin at a kissing gate and follow the gravel path to the road then turn **R**. After about 20m at a junction with Millwood turn **L**. Then at a junction with Mill Road turn **R** and follow downhill to a mini roundabout. At the mini roundabout take the tarmac path opposite with a 'Public Footpath' sign and follow the path between two high timber fences to come out onto a cul-de-sac next to a house. Follow the road out of the close and turn **L** at the junction with Chartwell Drive. Follow Chartwell Drive to Lisvane Road (ignore turn-offs for Balmoral Close and Portland Place). At the junction with Lisvane Road (the B4562) turn **L** and after about 100m you arrive at **Checkpoint 2 Grid Ref 185793**. (*230 min*)

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Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 2 TO CHECKPOINT 1

From **Checkpoint 2** go through the metal gate and follow the unmade track to another metal gate. Pass through the gate and take the larger path on the **L** which takes you through an opening in a line of trees. Just after passing through the line of trees turn immediately **R** and follow the grassy path with a line of trees to your **R**.

The grassy track becomes more worn and stony. At the next field boundary the track may have a pond blocking your way through. If this is the case follow the path which goes **R** and after about 10m you come to a muddy opening in the fence on the **L**. Pass through this opening and follow the grassy track through the field (you'll see the pond to your **L**) and keep trees/bushes on your **R**.

A track joins from the **L** as you walk through the field. Ignore this and go straight on and descend to a stile (240 min). Just after the stile cross a wooden bridge onto a larger unmade track. Pass a viewing platform for Lisvane reservoir on the **R**. At a sign stating :

'Warning – Deep Water Please use woodlands path in times of flood'.

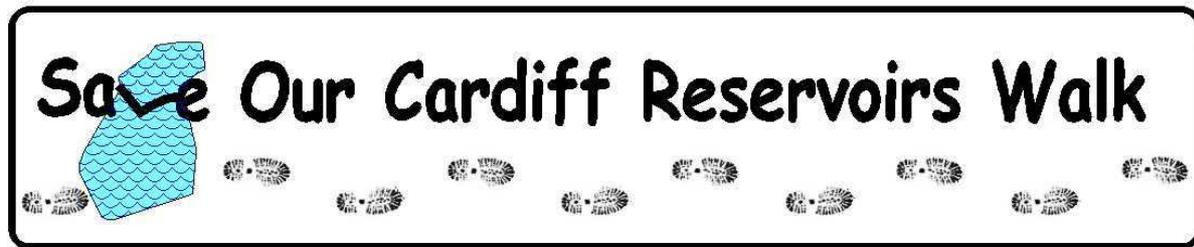
If there's no flood, keep straight on.

*If the path ahead is flooded then you need to take the path going off **L** just before the sign. After a couple of minutes you come to a 'T' junction of paths in the wood, go **R**. After a few more minutes you rejoin the main path at another 'Warning – Deep Water' sign. Turn **L**.*

Pass through a metal gate then after 10m a kissing gate. Cross the tarmac track to pass through another kissing gate opposite and follow the larger unmade track (a smaller track goes off to the **R** next to the sign). Follow the track and ignore any paths joining. Cross a metal footbridge over a stream and after 10m turn **L** at a junction with a tarmac path (next to a park bench).

Follow the path to Rhyd y Penau Road. On reaching Rhyd y Penau Road (255 min) you'll see on the opposite side of the road and slightly to the **L** is another path next to a finger post marked 'Nant Fawr'. Take this path. Keep on the main path (ignore any rough paths leading off) and continue with the stream on your **R**.

Cross a very small wooden bridge over a small stream. Shortly after (about 20m) is a 90 degree bend in the path with another path joining from the **L**. Turn **L** to take this path. You soon reach a tarmac path crossing **L-R** at a finger post. Cross over and continue on the gravel path. The path comes out onto Llandennis Road. Here turn **L** and pass Cardiff High School on your **L**. After a short distance you arrive at a roundabout. Stay to the **L** of the roundabout, crossing Celyn Avenue to join Lake Road East. After approximately 50m cross the road to an unmade track into the Wild Gardens. After about 20m paths meet at a noticeboard on your **R**. Turn **R** just after the noticeboard. Keep on the main path and ignore any smaller ones forking off. At a green bin turn **R** over a small footbridge and after the footbridge turn immediately **L**. Follow the unmade path to come out onto Wild Gardens Road by another noticeboard. Fixed to the noticeboard is the unmanned **Checkpoint 1** (265 min) at the west end of Wild Gardens Road. Note the letter on the Checkpoint on your Checkpoint Card.



Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 1 To PONTCANNA SCOUT HALL

Cross the road and take the path to keep the fence on your **L**. Continue on the path along the side of the lake (lake should be on your **L**). When you reach the start of the path over the dam (by the cafe and shop) it may be very busy as on the 6th July is the Roath Park Festival. If it is very busy go on the footway on Lake Road West and rejoin the route at the (*) below otherwise a more pleasant route is to proceed down the path opposite the cafe and adjacent to the ice cream kiosk towards the Rose Gardens (the west side of the park). Keep straight on the path with the park fence boundary on your right until you come to the park entrance onto Lake Road West. Exit the park, (*) cross the road and turn **L** under the bridge.

On your left is a roundabout with four roads joining. Cross Wedal Road and stay to the **R** of the roundabout. Go under the railway bridge, you're now on Fair oak Road. Just after a short steep climb after the bridge you have the main entrance to Cathays Cemetery on your right. Here you have a choice. To avoid some road walking you can use Cathays Cemetery) which opens at 10am. Alternatively you can walk along Fair oak Road to the traffic lights by Cathays Library. For the cemetery route go into the main entrance with a roundabout of flowers in front of you. Take the path immediately **L** and follow the path parallel with Fair oak Road. Just before Cathays Library is another entrance to the cemetery. Go through this entrance and re-join Fair oak Road at the junction with Whitchurch Road/Crwys Road/Cathays Terrace (traffic lights next to Cathays Library). Cross Whitchurch Road (the road on the **R** at the junction) and go along the paved area closing off Pentyrch Street (with school on your **R**). Continue along Pentyrch Street passing a newsagent and crossing three streets to the junction on the **R** with Cosmeston Street.

Turn **R** along Cosmeston Street. At the next junction (with Rhigos Street) go straight across and continue on Cosmeston Street to the next junction (with Gelligaer Street). Cross the road and take the footpath going off Gelligaer Street next to the playground. The footpath comes out at Crown Way with a zebra crossing in front of you. Cross at the zebra crossing and continue straight on down another path opposite which links Crown Way with New Zealand Road.

At New Zealand Road turn **L**. After about 50m the road joins North Road with North Store Minimarket in front of you. Cross over North Road at the pedestrian crossing in front of North Store Minimarket and go **R** to the small Tesco store at the junction with Parkfield Place. At the small Tesco go **L** down Parkfield Place. The road descends steeply downhill over the railway and passes Tal y Bont Halls of Residence on the **R**. The road stops at a small bridge over a stream. Cross the bridge and go **R** to descend to a stone masonry house .

At the house turn **L** and join the Taff Trail next to the river. Follow the Taff Trail to the cable stayed footbridge. Cross the footbridge and take the path away from the river through the playing fields. Eventually you get to a junction with a tarmac path. Turn **L** and after 50m or so turn **R** into the car park with Pontcanna Scout Hall on your **L**. Go to the Scout Hall (320 min), check-in, get refreshments and relax, congratulations, you've done it!