

# Save Our Cardiff Reservoirs Walk



It is recommended you follow the route set out in the **SILVER 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!).

## SILVER Route Description: FROM START TO CHECKPOINT 1

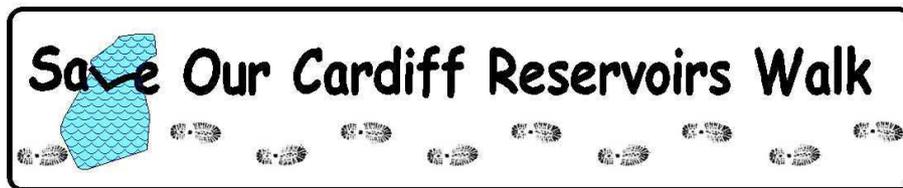
On leaving the Scout Hall bear **R** across the car park to join the tarmac track next to the fields. On joining the tarmac track turn **L** and after a short distance (50m) turn **R** by the marker post and follow the path across Pontcanna Fields to the cable stayed footbridge across the Taff (you can see the tower). Just after crossing the footbridge (*8 min*) turn **L**. Follow this track next to the river for several minutes until you get to a stone masonry house (*12 min*). Just before the house turn a 'hairpin' and follow the track uphill to a small footbridge over a small stream. Once you cross the footbridge you're on a road (steep) which takes you passed Tal-y-Bont student Halls of Residence.

Follow the road over the railway to the junction with North Road (the main dual carriageway into Cardiff). Cross at the pedestrian lights then turn right and walk along the footpath for 50m to North Store Minimarket. At the supermarket turn immediately **L** onto New Zealand Road. You'll now have Cathays High School on your **R**. When you get to the end of the boundary of Cathays High School (the boundary facing the road) at the school Caretaker's house turn immediately **R** onto a footpath linking New Zealand Road and Crown Way. You'll now have the school boundary fence on your **R** and the boundary fence to Companies House on your **L**, follow the path to Crown Way.

When you get to Crown Way cross at the zebra crossing in front of you and continue straight on down another path which links Crown Way with Gelligaer Street. When you get to Gelligaer Street cross the road to join Cosmeston Street and continue down Cosmeston Street. At the next junction (with Rhigos Street) go straight across and continue on Cosmeston Street to the next junction (with Pentyrch Street). Here turn **L** onto Pentyrch Street and after a short distance (crossing three streets joining Pentyrch Street) you'll have Gladstone School on your **L** at the junction with Whitchurch Road/Crwys Road/Cathays Terrace/Fairoak Road.

Cross Whitchurch Road to Cathays Library (*29 min*) and continue straight on down Fairoak Road (the road between Cathays Library and a corner shop (which is currently vacant). To avoid some road walking you can use Cathays Cemetery if its open. Alternatively you can walk along Fairoak Road. For the cemetery route use the entrance off Fairoak Road just after Cathays Library. On entering the cemetery turn immediately **R** and follow the path parallel with Fairoak Road. At the Cemetery's main entrance (with a roundabout of flowers in front of you) rejoin Fairoak Road and turn **L** down a short steep hill under the railway.

You're now at a roundabout with 4 roads meeting. Continue on the footway with a row of houses on your **L**. Just after passing the roundabout cross Wedal Road (Wedal Road is the one with Scalini's Resturant at the junction) and go straight on under the bridge, then immediately after the bridge cross the road and enter the 'Rose Gardens' of Roath Park. Please be aware that its **Roath Park Open Day** and various activities are taking place. There may be large lorries manoeuvring to drop items off. On entering the park turn **L**. Follow the path to Roath Park Lake and continue along the path on the west side of the lake (*42 min*).



At the north end of the lake you reach Wild Gardens Road. Cross the road to a noticeboard opposite titled 'Wild Gardens' (52 min). Fixed to the noticeboard is **Checkpoint 1** at the west end of Wild Gardens Road. Note the letter on the Checkpoint on your Checkpoint Card.

### **Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 1 TO CHECKPOINT 2**

Next to the noticeboard is a gravel path leading into the Wild Gardens. Follow this gravel path. After a short distance the path forks either **L** to rejoin the footpath on Lake Road West or you go **R** to cross a small bridge. Take the **R** and cross the bridge then immediately turn **L**. When you come to a crossroads of paths turn **L** (next to another noticeboard) upto Lake Road East. Cross the road and turn **L** to the roundabout. Stay on the footway and cross Celyn Avenue where it joins the roundabout.

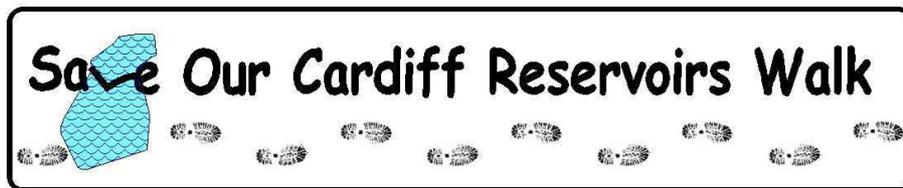
Continue on the footway passed Cardiff High School. Just after the main entrance to Cardiff High School turn **R** along a gravel track (with a finger post marked 'Nant Fawr'). When you come to a tarmac path (crossing from **L** to **R**) go over the path and continue on the gravel path with another finger post marked 'Nant Fawr'. You'll now follow the path next to/near the stream until Rhyd y Penau Road. After about 20m the path forks. Take the **L**. At the next fork in the path again take the **L** and after a short distance you reach a junction of paths next to the Nant Fawr (stream). Turn **R**. You shortly come out onto Rhyd y Penau Road (65 min). Opposite on the other side of the road and slightly to the **L** join a tarmac path with a finger post marked 'Nant Fawr'. Take this path along the side of the stream. After a short distance a tarmac path joins from the **R** (just after a park bench). Turn **R** along this path and cross a small footbridge over the Nant Fawr.

Then turn **L** on the main unmade path. Eventually you come to a noticeboard 'Friends of Nant Fawr Community Woodland' with a kissing gate next to it. Go through the gate and cross the rough tarmac path to another kissing gate opposite. Then after just about 10m go through another metal gate and follow the unmade path. At a sign stating 'Warning – Deep Water Please use woodlands path in times of flood' next to a fork in the track, keep straight on if there's no flood.

*If the path ahead is flooded then you need to take the path going off **R** near the sign. After a few of minutes a path joins from the **L** just before the path you're on emerges onto fields. Take the path **L** and after a minute or so you rejoin the main path at another 'Warning – Deep Water ...' sign. Go **R** and follow the path. Now continue reading at '**A**' below.*

Pass through another metal gate. Pass a reservoir viewing platform access on the **L**. Cross a small wooden bridge to a stile. Just after the stile fork **L** (footpath signs at stile show **L** or 'straight on' arrows) onto a grassy path.

**A** The path eventually comes to a muddy area on the **R**. If its dryish go through the muddy area to join a larger path the other side. Alternatively if the muddy area is too difficult to get through you can go straight on to the gap in the fence and the path loops around to re-join the larger path the other side of the muddy area. In the next field fork **L** onto a smaller track. Go to the gate at the top of the field and pass through onto an unmade track. After a short distance you get to the road. Next to the gate onto the road is a layby - **Checkpoint 2 (Grid Ref 188826)**. (90 min)

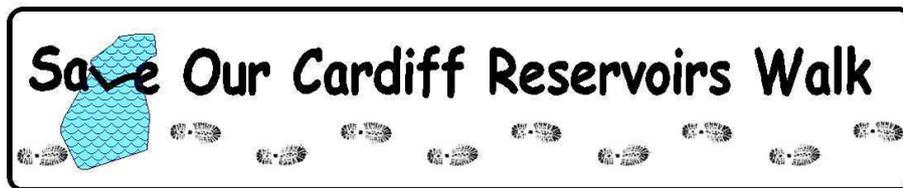


### Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 2 TO CHECKPOINT 3

From the layby go **L** then first **R** (Chartwell Drive) then third **R** (Buckingham Close). Go to the top end of the close and pass in front of the house on the **R** onto a tarmac path with a public footpath sign. Follow the tarmac path to come out onto a mini roundabout (101 min). Go straight over and stay on Mill Road passing three turn offs on the **L** for Hilcot Close, Long House Close and Rosewood Close. Then turn off at the next **L** down Millwood. Take the next junction **R** (for Heol Cefn Onn). After 10m take the gravel track going off **L** to a wooden kissing gate with a noticeboard next to it 'Coed y Felin'. On the noticeboard you'll see a map of the various entrances to Coed y Felin. You need to follow the path towards the entrance marked 'Ridgeway Entrance'. So keep straight on the main path and ignore any turn offs. Just before the kissing gate at the 'Ridgeway Entrance' turn **L** and follow the path downhill. At a fence take the roughly stepped path on the **R** and continue downhill to a post with an arrow pointing **R**. Turn **R** and you'll very quickly come to a kissing gate next to a tree sculpture (105 min). Turn **L** after passing through the gate. Then take the **R** at a fork in the path. Again take the **R** at the next fork and go uphill to a kissing gate. Turn **R** after you go through the gate onto a tarmac path and after a short distance you join Clos Llys Faen. Follow this road to Lisvane railway station, cross the footbridge at the station (121 min) and turn **L** out of the car park onto Cherry Orchard Road. After a 100m you reach a mini roundabout. Take the **R** turn onto the access road to Parc Cefn Onn. Follow the road to the car park (125 min).

At Cefn Onn car park take the path to the **R** of the building and go through the subway under the motorway. Stay on the tarmac path through the lower park. At the opening in a fence to exit the lower park cross over and go through the opening in another fence opposite to enter the upper park. Stay on the track through the upper park. Towards the top end of the park at a marker post (it should have an unmanned Chaekpoint used on the Copper Route) go **R** for about 20m along a path to pass through an opening in the fence boundary to a junction with a larger path (132 min). Here turn **L** (away from the park). From here to Checkpoint 3 you keep on the main unmade, gravelly path. Some things to watch out for:

At a metal gate a path goes straight on (marked 'to Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk' or **R**). Take the path uphill and straight on. You reach a path 'T' junction by a wooden gate on your **R**. Go **L** (at marker post). Pass a marker post on the **L** by a bench and ignore a smaller path going off **L**, the main path bends sharply to the **R** here (142 min). Pass a brick ventilation shaft for the train tunnel on your **R** (144 min). Pass a marker post and go straight on the main path (ignore the path going **L** with steps). Pass another marker post on the **L** and again keep straight on the main track. Go through a timber double gate (147 min). The track shortly has a sharp bend **R** (here ignore a smaller track going off to the **L**). At a path 'T' junction in the track go **R** and ignore a path joining from the **L** (156 min). Keep on the gravel track and shortly you arrive at the summit of the ridge at a marker post. You've now arrived at **Checkpoint 3! (Grid Ref 176852) (159 min)**. If unmanned, make a note of the letter on your Checkpoint Card.



## Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 3 TO CHECKPOINT 4

From the checkpoint you join a gravel track in front of you going **L** to **R** (the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway). At the Checkpoint go **L**. Shortly you reach a fork in the track by a marker post (160 min). Follow arrow, go **L**. Now ignore any tracks joining from the **L** or **R** and stay on the main unmade track. Pass a marker post on your **R** for the 'Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk' and 'Escape To'. Pass a quarry on the **L** (be careful and stay on the main path). Continue on the path and a track joins at a gate with a marker post (**Grid Ref 168852**). Go through the gate and go downhill (170 min).

Keep your eyes peeled for a turn off to the **R** after 100m(\*). There's a marker post for the 'Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk' going slightly uphill (**Grid Ref 169850**). Take this turn off **R**. Go through a gate. Pass 2 marker posts close to each other and continue straight on the main path (186 min).

\* Red  
Ribbon  
tied to  
post

Pass a marker post on the **R** (to the left hidden in trees is the remains of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century (?) Castell Morgraig). Go through another gate then immediately the track forks, you can take either as they meet up again, the less muddy path is the **L**. Pass through another gate (194 min) then just after is a stone building on the **L**. Go through another gate and you're at the main road (A469). Cross (**with care!**) in front of the red painted house opposite (Pant y Gollen) with a postbox next to it and go **L**. After 50m or so (where the footpath peters out) take the path going off to your **R** with a marker post for the 'Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk'. You'll pass a farmhouse on your **R** (210 min) and go through a gate next to a green out building to come out at a golf course. Continue on the unmade gravel track through the golf course. At a fingerpost on your **L** you can either follow the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk through the golf course (Option 1 - shorter) or avoid the golf course (Option 2):

### Option 1:

At the finger post go **R** to go along the left side of the fairway ahead. Pass a marker post. After a minute you should see another marker post over to your **L**. This directs you along a slightly overgrown path through trees. Cross over a small timber footbridge over a dry ditch. You emerge onto the side of a fairway by a marker post with a 'straight ahead' arrow. Go in the direction of the arrow across the fairway. **BUT LOOK FIRST FOR GOLFERS (AND GOLF BALLS!) COMING THROUGH.** When you reach the other side of the fairway follow the path through the trees. At a 'T' junction go **R** and after 10m go through a kissing gate then up some steps to reach a path going **L** to **R** by a marker post (joins Option 2 at this marker post). Go **R** and keep straight on to reach a house. Read on from **A** below.

### Option 2:

At the finger post follow the arrow for 'Rhiwbina' (straight ahead). Continue on the unmade path and pass the tee for hole 8. Pass a sign 'Notice – You are Reminded of Your Obligations to Give Priority to users of This Right of Way'. At a fork by a marker post take the smaller track to the **R**. Go through a metal gate then shortly cross a wooden footbridge. Continue on the path until you reach a metal gate with a stile on the **R**. Don't go through the gate, turn **R** and go steeply uphill keeping the fenceline of small trees on your **L**. At the top of the field/end of treeline is a stile. Cross and go **R**. Keep the fence on the **R**. At the next stile go over (or through an opening near the **R** of the stile) and keep on the small track towards a row of trees on the top of a mound. The ground here can be boggy but is still quite firm. On the way you'll pass a stile without a fence. At the top of the mound with the clump of trees you may see to the **R** near pylons a metal gate and stile in the corner of the field which is where you need to aim for.

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Go along the top of the mound for 30m in the direction of the gate. Then to your **L** you should see a path through the reedy grass to the gate. Take this path to reach the metal gate and stile (*220 min*).

Cross over the stile and follow the path through the trees. After a short distance you reach a junction with a marker post. Turn **R** and follow the path under power lines. Pass a marker post (where Option 2 and Option 1 meet) with a path off to the **R**, ignore the path and keep straight on to reach a house.

**A** Go to the **R** of the house boundary wall with a white gate. Follow the path around the house boundary . Then at a track with the gate to the house grounds on your **L** turn **R** and follow the track to the main road (A469). Cross over (**with care!**) and go up to the 'Mountain Café' car park ahead. Cross over the road (B4600) to pass through two rocks onto a track. Follow the main track to the summit of Caerphilly Mountain. At the trig point is **Checkpoint 4 (Grid Ref 153855)** (*235 min.*)

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## Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 4 TO CHECKPOINT 5

From the checkpoint take the smaller path to descend with the Garth mountain in the distance front of you. At a 'crossroads' of paths cross the track and keep straight on. At a finger post (marked 'Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk') go straight on to come out at the main road (A469). There's a finger post for 'Ridgeway Walk' on one side of the road and marker post on the opposite side at the start of an unmade track (to the right of a road junction). Cross over the road at the finger post **(with care!)** and go onto the unmade track. At a fork take the R.

Just after an old log on the L with three seats carved into it, you arrive at a marker post with a 'Rhydney Valley Ridgeway Walk' arrow where five tracks meet **(Grid Ref 147853)** (245 min) (\*), the path is gravelly over the area around the path junctions.

\* Red Ribbon tied to post

You now have a choice. If you want to do the shorter more direct route go on **(A)** below. If you'd prefer a more scenic route along the ridge but adds about 1km then go on **(B)** below.

**(A)** Where five tracks meet **(Grid Ref 147853)**, go straight on. (If you were arriving at a roundabout its second left!). If you go R you go up Twyn Garwa. At the next marker post (marked 'Rhydney Valley Ridgeway Walk' with a 'straight on' arrow) take the path joining from the L and go downhill. You come out onto a road with a house on your R. There's a stile opposite (ignore). At the road go R and follow for a short distance to the Black Cock pub **(Grid Ref. 143848)**.

Opposite the pub is a stile. Either cross this and turn R to follow the path parallel with the road for 50m to a marker post or go down the road opposite for 50m from the Black Cock pub to the marker post on the L. From the road go to the marker post and go immediately R (or its more-or-less straight on if you've taken the non-road route) along an unmade path. At the next marker post follow arrowed path R (not the path straight ahead). After about 10m the path turns L by a low concrete parapet and just after this parapet go down some steps. Pass another marker post (254 min). At a fork go L (no marker post) – you can take the R fork, the paths rejoin after about 20m. Pass another marker post. 20m after marker post go over a small wooden footbridge. Follow the stream. Cross another wooden footbridge (260 min). Pass a tunnel on your L. At the next marker post follow the arrowed path L uphill (not straight ahead over the stile) (277 min). At the next marker post go over the stile. The right of way ahead has long grass. Although passable its easier to take the path around as follows:

When you cross the stile a wide path goes L or R in front of you. Go L. The path is wide but very uneven with deep ruts from wheel tracks. The path shortly curves R, continue to descend and ignore any paths joining. Along your L is a wood and you should see the roof of a building ahead of you. Eventually (282 min) you reach an area with a number of wide tracks joining. Take the track straight ahead, downhill. (Ignore the track going off L to an open area with some heaps of spoil. During the reccie traffic cones were placed across this track. Also ignore the track going off R.) The track straight ahead downhill very quickly curves to the L and you'll see a metal gate ahead with a marker on the gate post. Go to this gate and on the otherside is a fingerpost.

Go through the metal gate and follow the arrowed path L (295 min). Cross a small stream which is piped under the track. Just after this is a building being renovated. Go to the L of this building. You emerge onto a tarmac track going L (uphill) to R (downhill) in front of you. Go R then just before a masonry arch bridge with a large pipe on the side go L onto the signposted Taff Trail. Go along the narrow track for a short distance to emerge onto the larger track of the main Taff Trail and go L (signposted Taff Trail, Cardiff/Caerdydd) (42 min). Follow this track to **Grid Ref 129836** (steel bike stile). Continue reading at (X) below.

**(B)** At the marker post with a 'Rhydney Valley Ridgeway Walk' arrow where the five tracks meet **(Grid Ref 147853)**, take the larger track to the R (if you were arriving at a roundabout it would be third turning off). Go along the track (can be muddy). Ignore a grassy track going off L but take the next large track off L going downhill towards a pylon. At a fork where paths seem to run parallel take either. A path joins from the L near

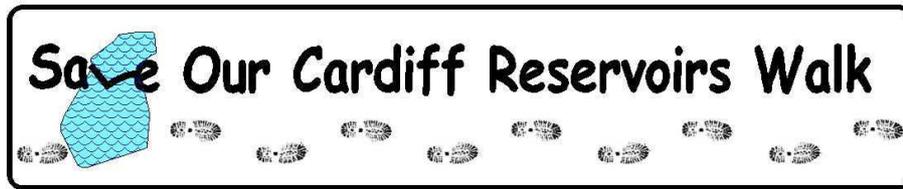
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the pylon. Ignore and keep straight on. Keep on the main track and ignore any joining. Shortly you come out onto a tarmac track going **L** (downhill) to **R** (uphill) in front of you with a marker post for the 'Rhymer Valley Ridgeway Walk' and a kissing gate opposite (**Grid Ref 144856**). Go **L** on the tarmac track downhill. Pass a 'No Entry' to vehicles sign in a rock in the middle of the path. After this sign the path becomes an access road and bends sharply **R**. Pass a gate to 'Cwm Farm' on the **R** and stay on the road to a 'T' junction. At the junction turn **L** (arrows for the 'Rhymer Valley Ridgeway Walk' are fixed to a retaining wall at this junction (**Grid Ref 141856**)). Pass 'Anthony Davies Building Services' on the **R**. At a fork go **R** (**Grid Ref 141853**). Just after the fork a bridge takes you over a track to a disused small quarry on the **R**. Pass 'Ffrwnes Blwm' on the **L** and a yellow salt bin. Shortly after this on the **R** is a metal gate with a finger post next to it. Go through the gate. After a short distance a track joins from the **R**. Take this track and ignoring any smaller tracks joining follow the unmade path to ascend to the summit of Craig yr Allt (**Grid Ref 134851**).

From the summit of Craig yr Allt stay on the unmade track and descend. As you descend ignore a track joining from the **L** and continue towards the Garth Mountain ahead of you. At a fork take the large path **L**. At a 'T' junction take the **R** (by a marker post). Look out for a junction of paths, with a sharp bend in the main track going **L**, a large path joining **R** and a small track going straight on. Here take the track going **R** towards a mast. This track quickly becomes narrow and a bit muddy. Near the mast is a 'T' junction of paths with a choice of **R** uphill or **L** downhill. Take the **L**. You arrive at a timber stile by a finger post. To your **R** is a bridge abutments (no deck) with a large pipe spanning between the abutments (ignore) and go **L** onto the signposted Taff Trail (**Grid Ref. 122848**). Go along the narrow track for a short distance to emerge onto the larger track of the main Taff Trail and go **L** (signposted Taff Trail). Follow this track to **Grid Ref 129836** (steel bike stile). Continue reading at (X) below.

(X) At a steel bike stile go **L** uphill (arrowed Taff Trail). Pass a marker post and keep straight on (ignore a **L** track joining). Near the top of a long steady climb is a bench on the **R** with a Taff Trail marker. Pass the bench and keep straight on the main track. Shortly after the bench the path flattens then starts to descend. A few hundred metres after the bench a similar track joins on the **R**. There are no marker posts at this junction. Take this **R** hairpin turn. After about 20m is a marker post with an NCN 'Bike 8' marker. Pass this post and descend to Castell Coch Car Park (**Checkpoint 5(S)**)



## **Route Description: FROM CHECKPOINT 5(S) TO PONTCANNA SCOUT HALL**

After checking in at the Checkpoint (may be unmanned) you can either take the main Taff Trail route down the access road for Castell Coch to join the main road and turn **R** into Tongwynlais or you can take the more scenic short cut which includes a very short descent.

### **Short Cut Option:**

Go to the left of the main entrance 'gangway' and take the steps down to a path along the south side of the castle. At the corner of the castle tower go straight ahead and after a short distance and after a sharp **L** turn the path becomes steep for a short distance. Carefully descend this short steep path and at the bottom of this slope is the corner of a fence boundary to a golf course. Take the path **L** with a concrete type manhole cover inlaid in the path (not the path straight ahead). Follow the path along the boundary fence to emerge onto the road and rejoin the main Taff Trail route from Castell Coch. Go **R** along the road into Tongwynlais.

### **Main Route:**

At the Lewis Arms pub go **L**. Go past shops and just after a school on the **R** go **R** down Ironbridge Road. Follow the lane and don't turn off onto any road joining. Pass Grant's Close on the **R**. Then go through subway under the motorway and just after the path goes **R**. After about 50m is a sharp bend **L**. Pass the entrance to fields on the **L**, stay on the tarmac lane. Shortly you arrive at a junction of four paths. Take the **L** signposted 'Taff Trail' (straight on is Gelynys Farm' also there's a kissing gate on the **R**, ignore these).

From here you follow the Taff Trail which is well signposted 'Taff Trail' and Sustrans bike 'Route 8' all the way back (also it more-or-less follows the Taff, keep the river on your **R**), until you reach the cable stayed footbridge you crossed just after the start of the walk. Cross the footbridge and re-trace your steps back to Pontcanna Scout Hall for your Certificate and refreshments. Congratulations and Well Done!