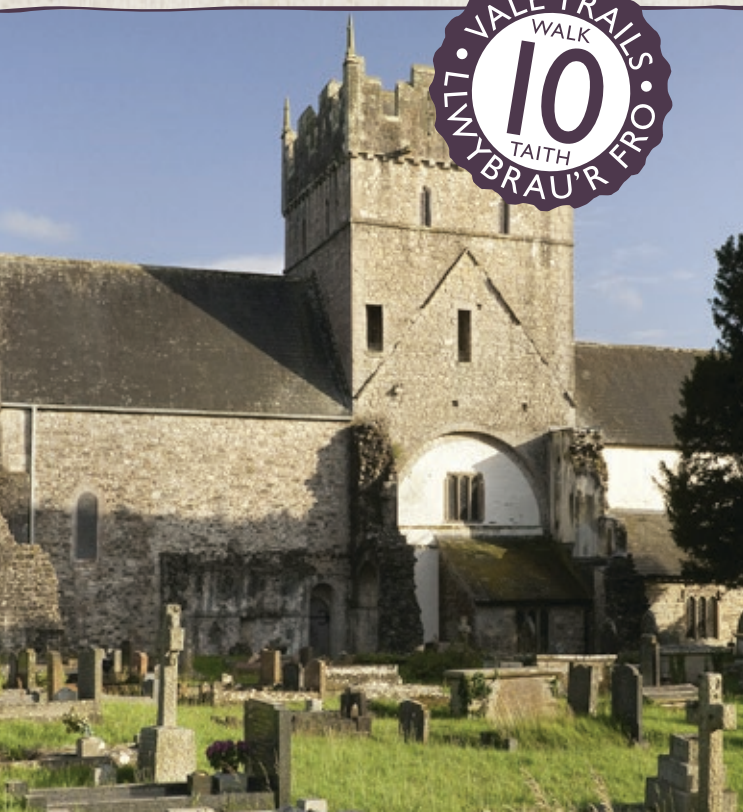




Ewenny & Spring Flowers Walk

St Brides, Corntown, Ewenny &
Coed y Bwl Nature Reserve (8 miles / 13 km)
Shorter optional St Brides loop (3 miles / 5 km)
or Corntown loop (5 miles / 8 km)



WALKING IN THE VALE

Walking in the Vale of Glamorgan combines a fascinating 60 km stretch of the Wales Coast Path with the picturesque, historic beauty of inland Vale. Along its rugged coastline walkers can discover the last manned lighthouse in Wales (automated as recently as 1998), a college unlike any other at St Donats and 16th century walled gardens at Dunraven Bay, plus the seaside bustle of Barry and Penarth.

Inland, walkers will find the historic market towns of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, as well as idyllic villages such as St. Nicholas and St. Brides Major, where the story of the Vale is told through monuments such as Tinkinswood burial chamber and local characters like Iolo Morganwg, one of the architects of the Welsh nation. Our series of 5 coastal and 5 inland Vale Trails will help you get to the very heart of this fascinating area.

This is an idyllic, rural trail where walkers can enjoy delightful natural views and some created by talented historical figures.

It starts in the village of St. Bride's Major, with its historic church of St. Bridget's, while at its farthest point is Ewenny Priory, the most complete Norman church in Wales and the setting for one of JMW Turner's finest works of art.

There are outstanding views across South Wales. On a clear day walkers will see the Beacon at Rhossili Down, Gower as well as the Somerset coast and inland Wales.

Other local highlights include the clapper bridge across the River Alun and the Coed y Bwl Nature Reserve, also known as 'Daffodil Wood'.

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

Footpaths / Llwybrau
 Bridleway / Llwybr ceffyl
 Restricted Byway / Cilffordd gyfyngedig
 Byway / Cilffordd

Many thanks to Valeways and to Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers for their valuable contribution to Vale Trails and their continued support for these walks and leaflets.





Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

THE ROUTE

 **920 kcal**
Estimated calories:
70kg walking at 3mph

 **1100 kcal**
Estimated calories:
83kg walking at 3mph

 **Family friendly**

visitthevale.com



Getting there From A48 take the B4265, through Ewenny and pass the turn-off for Ogmores-by-Sea. Follow the road over a cattle grid and continue into the village of St Brides Major. The car park is on your right, opposite the Fox & Hounds pub.

Terrain Mostly good tracks and accessible fields. Be prepared for some areas of overgrowth in summer. An energetic, undulating walk with some short steep sections and gradual climbs. Tracks through woods and stepping stones over the River Alun.

Distance Main walk is 8 miles with a 3 mile option.

Map OS Explorer 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

Parking Car park opposite Fox & Hounds pub in St. Brides Major. Some roadside parking at Corntown.

Public Transport Buses between Bridgend and Llantwit Major stop at St Brides Major. Railway stations at Bridgend and Llantwit Major. For up to date travel information visit www.traveline-cymru.info.

Refreshments & Toilets Fox & Hounds and Farmers Arms pubs in St. Brides Major. Shop in St Brides Major.

THE WALK *Grid reference SS895750 Postcode: CF32 0SA* (8 miles)

Start the walk at the village of St Brides Major.

Leave the car park and cross the main road (B4265) and turn left. At the end of the pavement, turn right uphill, along Blackhall Road. As the gradient lessens you will reach a cattle grid on the left with a way-marked track straight ahead. Follow this hard surfaced track as it winds its way up Castle Down (1). Leave it as it swings right towards a house. You carry straight on along a wide,

grassy track. Where the track divides into three take the middle track (with fine views to the west of limestone quarries and, on a clear day, the Gower coast). Soon the track swings to the right (eastwards) and you carry on past a waymarker post.

This section offers excellent views of both England and Wales. To your left are rolling hills with a cluster of wind turbines, and to the right (weather permitting) you will see the Somerset coastline across the Bristol Channel. Carry straight on for approximately 500 metres before reaching a waymarker on the left (2) directing you downhill along a narrow steep path through the woods. Be careful as it may be slippery in wet weather.

At the bottom continue straight through a gate and turn right under a railway bridge (3), soon passing through a metal gate until you reach the river. * *(If at this point you wish to shorten the walk and return to St. Brides, turn right. Go to ** on this guide and follow the route instructions from there).* Cross the River Alun via the quirky **stepping-stone bridge (4)** (known locally as Stepsau Duon or Pont y Brown). Follow the road on the opposite bank up the hill for 0.25 mile to reach the junction of Wick Rd.



Don't miss out on visiting the magnificent Ewenny Priory on this walk.

Turn left past Wallas Fach, and walk up the road for 600 metres. Just over the **brow of the hill, turn right (5)** along a way marked route, keeping the hedge and wall on your left. You will soon reach another minor road. Cross it. Turn right on the road, then almost immediately left through a kissing gate to proceed downhill. Follow the way-markers downhill to **Corntown**.

To visit the Priory (6), cross the road to the left of Ty Capel. Cross a stile and follow the route along a field, over a second stile and take the path to the left until you spot the Priory.

Return to the main road and turn left. Pass Corntown Pool on your right (7). Turn right onto **Heol y Cawl**. Walk up this lane as far as the entrance to Corntown Farm. This involves a steady climb of 1/2 mile.














At the top, cross the **kissing gate on the right adjacent to the entrance** of the farm. Once in the field, go through a small gate on the left, and hugging the hedge line, walk around the field corner to reach a kissing gate. Go straight on to the right hand side of a stone wall/hedge. Follow this (southward) to arrive at a metal gate and stile which leads to a minor road. Turn right and walk up the road for a short distance to reach a waymarker post on your left that leads to a short bridleway. Go through a metal gate and **walk straight ahead through the field (8)**. Keep to the right of the hedge to reach another gate to go through a wooded area. Continue along the (sometimes muddy) path to go through a small gate on the left just before reaching a road (Wick Road).

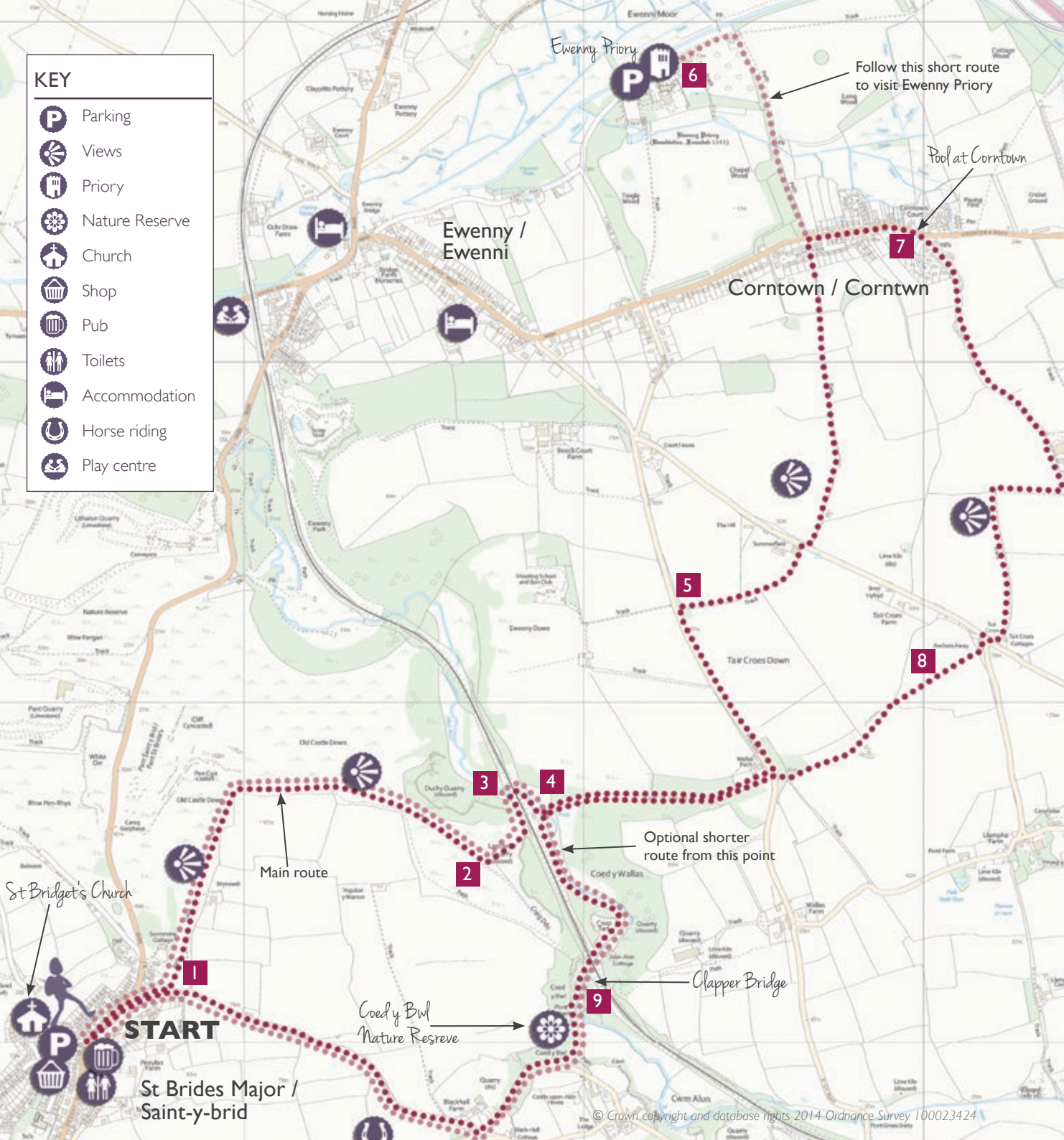
Cross the road and head straight down the road to return to Pont y Brown. Cross the river and follow the track to the left. ** *If you shortened or started the walk at the * you should now follow the directions from here.* Keep an eye out for the stone clapper bridge across the river Alun (9). Do not cross the bridge but continue gently up the hill. Go past the wooden gated entrance to the **Glamorgan Wildlife Trust of Coed Y Bwl** to reach a junction. Turn right along the road to lead you back to Ewenny Road and the car park.



There is a possibility of livestock in some fields. Please keep dogs on a lead and follow the countryside code.

KEY

-  Parking
-  Views
-  Priory
-  Nature Reserve
-  Church
-  Shop
-  Pub
-  Toilets
-  Accommodation
-  Horse riding
-  Play centre



PLACES OF INTEREST

St. Bridget's Church

St. Brides is a shortened version of St. Bridget, the 5th century Irish saint. It was built to hold a commanding position over the village which was said to be done for the inhabitants to feel protected by St. Bridget. The church still possesses its original 12th century chancel with its arch.

St. Brides Village

A small village rich in history. There are track-ways within the village, known as Heol-y-Milwyr (Soldier's Way in English) created by Romans and further developed by the Normans. In 1815, British Army Officer, Sir Thomas Picton (who died in the battle of Waterloo) stayed in the village with his brother-in-law the Vicar of St. Brides.

Ewenny Priory

One of the finest examples of a fortified, ecclesiastical building in Europe, built by William de Londres between 1115 and 1126. It became a Priory in 1141 when it was given to the Abbott of Gloucester by his son, Maurice. Inside it is a work of art. In fact, JMW Turner's water-colour of the priory transept, painted in 1797, is at the National Museum of Wales – a reproduction can be seen in the priory. It also includes one of the oldest wall paintings in Wales, dating back to 1140. Check opening times in advance.

Pool at Corntown

The pool passed at the side of the road in Corntown was, it is thought, once a baptismal pool (Bethel Baptist), that fell into disuse for that purpose circa 1900.

Clapper Bridge

The term 'clapper' is derived from Anglo Saxon and means a stone slab bridge used in the past by packhorses and walkers. Sometimes the slabs, which were supported by vertical piers, collapsed, leaving the piers as stepping-stones.

Coed y Bwl Nature Reserve

This predominantly ash woodland is estimated to contain over 250,000 wild daffodils as well as wood anemones and, on the upper slopes, bluebells.



Start of the walk



NOTE
Phone signals are mostly strong in this area, and Google Maps can be a useful additional tool.



Stile at the bottom of wooded slope



OTHER VALE TRAILS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE

COASTAL WALKS

- 1 Ogmore By Sea Walk
St Brides Major
- 2 Coast and Lighthouse Walk
Llantwit Major / Nash Point
- 3 Celtic Crosses & Coast Walk
Llantwit Major
- 4 Park and Seaside Walk
St Athan / Rhoose / Barry
- 5 Coast and Pier Walk
Barry / Sully / Penarth

INLAND WALKS

- 6 Salmon Leaps Walk
Dinas Powys
- 7 Haunted Field Walk
St Nicholas
- 8 Magical Forest Walk
Peterston-Super-Ely
- 9 Iolo Morganwg Heritage Walk
Cowbridge
- 10 Ewenny & Spring Flowers Walk
Llandow / Ewenny

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/ewennypriory
thefoxandhoundstbrides.co.uk
 The Farmers Arms 01656 880224
welshwildlife.org/coed-y-bwl-castle-upon-alun
valeways.org.uk
valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk

Images courtesy of Treganna Design

"This walk has quite a few hills, but each one offers some fantatsic views that are worth the climb. For those who want to find out about some history on the route, Ewenny Priory is a must visit"
 Rhian Whittington