



Penallt Circular Walks – Kestrel/Coffee

Length:	5.7 km; total ascent: 105 m
Time:	70 to 90 minutes + optional coffee stop
Grade:	Gradual climbs only, several stiles
Starting point:	Pentwyn Green, Penallt's village green situated above the Bush Inn.

The route takes in historic buildings, a magnificent arboretum, arable and meadow pastures, short sections of quiet lanes, ancient woodlands and the opportunity for a half way “pit stop” at the Pig and Apple.

THE ROUTE

- a. From the village green, with your back to the Bush Inn, take the tarmac road on the left for about 100m to a T junction at the war memorial, turn left and follow the road. In another 150m you find The Old School (1834) and St Mary's Church (1868) both now converted to residential accommodation – adjacent to these is Babington Meadow, originally part of the school and church grounds.
- b. A further 180m (passing over the cross roads) brings you to a footpath on the left and is the start of the Arboretum with magnificent Wellingtonias. Keeping the hedge to your left over a stile, along the drive and straight to a gap in the wall and through a kissing gate. Here you will find a group of large houses on your left, the last of which is The Argoed dating from the 1860s, with earlier origins from the late 16th and early 17thC. Keep straight to a second kissing gate, left at the fork and follow the fence line to a metalled road.
- c. At the road turn right and follow for 400m until you come to the road junction – directly opposite you will find the footpath signed and a stile into the fields.
- d. At an angle to your left (about 45° to the left hand fence line) – cross the first field (often planted) to a stile and keep straight across the second field head towards a large tree. At this fence you cross over a ladder stile into a meadow (may be sheep grazing), keep the hedge line on your right – straight through the gate at the next hedge/fence and continue to follow the hedge into the right hand corner of the next field under the tree canopy.
- e. Descend the slope to cross a small stream and a stile, then aim at about 45° left for the upper left hand corner. Here you find a stone stile and once over this head slightly right looking for a second stone stile some 40m away. Over this stile follow the hedge to your left and over another stile onto a track.
- f. Turn right immediately up the track – over a stile on the left side of the gate and immediately take the stile on your left where you take a 45° heading to your right toward the top left hand corner of the field – here you pass through a metal gate into a garden. Keeping close to the hedge line on your right follow the path straight for some 200m (under the Zip Wire) and after a large gap in the hedge line you will find a stone stile on your right.
- g. Over the stile and immediately through the gate – now keep to the right hand side of the field and over a stile at the farm track – keep to the right hand hedge up to the road.
- h. The next stile takes you onto the road, cross over to follow the lane in front of you. At 200m the Pig and Apple Cafe/Bistro is on your left. It's 3.4km to this point, time for a coffee?
- i. Return to the lane and turn left. Walk to the end (just past The Craig, a house on your left) at this point turn right along a short track to find the stile (stone then wooden) high in the hedge on your right –. Over this into the field and head at about 10 o'clock looking for a gap in the hedge between two wooden gate posts to the left about 80m away. Go through this and continue straight over the next few fields. At the last field where you enter near midway, head about 45° to your left looking for a stile in the corner.

- j. You arrive at a metalled road, cross over and find a stone stile, after which you keep to the right hand hedge and enter the woods. Follow the path through the ancient woodland and at the path-junction by a converted barn continue straight over another stone stile.
- k. After a few hundred metres keep an eye out for a right hand fork – marked as a permissive path – take this fork up a short slope to a third stone stile on your left. Cross this and follow the wall to another path-junction – keep straight ignoring the path to the right.
- l. 100m further down the path turn right through a gap/stile into the meadow and follow the hedge line on your left. Continue to a narrow walkway and follow this to the next stile where you enter the final meadow – here keep to the hedge on your right and you will find the final stile next to the Old Chapel which brings you out onto a metalled road in the village – the Bush Inn is to the left down a short stretch of roadway. Time for more refreshment maybe?

Map

