




## Penallt Circular Walks – Kestrel

<b>Length:</b>	5.7 km; total ascent: 100 m
<b>Time:</b>	70 to 90 minutes
<b>Grade:</b>	Gradual climbs only, several stiles
<b>Starting point:</b>	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 and ancient woodlands.

### 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, erected in 1921 initially to commemorate those who fell in the great war. Turn left and follow the road. In another 150m you find *The Old School* (1834) and *St Mary's Church* (1868) on the left, both now converted to residential accommodation – adjacent to these is *Babington Meadow*, originally part of the school and church grounds. Continue over the cross roads and, in 60m, find a footpath on the left.
- b. This is the start of the Arboretum with magnificent Wellingtonias. Keeping the hedge to your left, go over a stile, join a drive and continue straight to a gap in the wall and through a kissing gate 10m beyond. 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 on a grassy path through a second kissing gate, left at the fork 10m beyond and follow the hedge/fence line over a stile; in 40m go right through a wooden gate on the left to a metalled road.
 
- c. At the road turn right and follow for 400m until you come to a triangular road junction – directly opposite you will find the footpath signed and a stile into the fields.
- d. Aim for the 2<sup>nd</sup> electricity pole from the left and cross the first field (often planted) to a stile. Keep straight across the second field heading 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 and go straight through the gate at the next hedge/fence and continue to follow the hedge into the right hand corner of the next field and cross the stile.
- e. Still keeping the hedge/fence on your right, descend the slope into a small copse and cross a small stream and a stile, then aim at about 45° left for a broken stile. Continue on the same line to a point some 15m short of the upper left hand corner of the field. Here you find a stone stile between two trees 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 farm track.
- f. Turn right immediately up the track towards the farm for 50m. Just before buildings on the right, 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. Bear left for 10m and, keeping close to the hedge line on your right, follow the path straight for some 100m. After a large gap in the hedge line you will find a zip wire platform and a stone stile on your right, 25m further on.
- 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, still keep the hedge/fence on the right and go 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 (open Thursday to Saturday, 4.30pm to 10pm –

you may need to book). It's 3.3km to this point. Walk to the end of the lane (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 and 15m before a gate across the track.

- i. 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, keep the field boundary on your left to the next field corner and a wood stile followed by a stone one. Cross these and pass immediately between an old fence and a wall end, following a winding path through trees for a few metres to a gate with a stile on its left. Cross this and continue, keeping the hedge on your left to a stone stile, then keep on the same line to a seasonal stream, immediately crossing a stone stile and a wooden one. Then bear left and look for a stone stile at the far side of the field which you cross to reach a metalled road.
- j. Cross over the road and cross 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 at a marker post and take this fork (permissive path) up a short slope to a third stone stile on your left. Cross this and follow the wall to a gate with a low stone stile on its right – 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 to a broken stile. Continue along a narrow lane and follow this to enter the final meadow – here keep to the hedge on your right and you will find the final stile next to the *Old Baptist 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 refreshment maybe?

## Map

