



Penallt Circular Walks – River Walk

Length:	7.3 km; total ascent: 290 m
Time:	100 to 150 minutes
Grade:	Several stiff climbs, gates/stiles; much easy walking with some rocky paths too
Starting point:	Pentwyn Green, Penallt's village green situated above the Bush Inn.

The route takes in Wyewood Common, Barn Lane, two inns and the Wye riverside.

THE ROUTE

- a. From The Village Green with the pub on the right head along the unmetalled road signposted "Pentwyn Farm Cottage". Just before a small car park by a large barn, take the gate ahead of you, with the Wyewood Common sign on it. Enter the field and keep the hedge/fence on your right as you go straight down the hill curving to the left. At the very bottom corner of the field there is a gate with a footpath sign.
- b. Go through the gate, past two boulders, down the path between a fence and a hedge. At the end of this section there are two gates. The second gate opens into a field. Bear 30 deg right towards another gate. Go through this gate and keep on the same line towards another gate to the right of a white house and outbuildings. Go through this gate and go steeply down towards another gate which allows access to Glyn Road via some steep stone steps – take care on the steps.
- c. Turn right and go down Glyn Road for 400 metres. 40 metres past the 1:4 road sign and just on the junction with the Birches, take the track going up to the right, signposted Lone Lane. This is Barn Lane. Follow all the way to Lone Lane (T-junction with metalled road).
- d. Turn left into Lone Lane and in 150 m turn right into the entrance to Hillside Cottage (signposted "River Wye") on a paved drive. Follow the drive through a private garden, over a stream and past wooden buildings. Go past the Canadian totem pole on your left and, at the end of the drive, you will see two metal gates straight ahead. Go through the left-hand pedestrian gate and follow the path left down steps, leading straight down towards the river, keeping the wall on your left and woodland on the right. Turn right down a gravel/concrete drive to the old Monmouth-Chepstow railway line.
- e. Cross the old railway line and go through a broken gate (FP sign) down to the river's edge where you turn left along the path.
[TOP TIP: if the river is in flood, do not go down to the track by the river, follow the railway line left along to the Boat Inn instead.]
Continue along the river path to the Penallt Viaduct where the railway line crossed the Wye from Penallt Halt on your left to Redbrook Station on your right. Go under the viaduct and up to the road in front of the Boat Inn (refreshments?).
- f. With The Boat on your left, continue along the road for 50 m, and go through a gate on your right where you rejoin the river path (FP signs). Keeping fairly close to the river, pass through another four gates. After about a km from the Inn you enter some woodland and go through another gate. In 120 m, and 20 m before yet another gate, take the small path going up diagonally through woods to the left, marked by a post at the start with FP signs on it.
- g. The woodland path bends to the left after a short while. Continue until it emerges on a minor road bend. Turn right and immediately take the marked path (FP) at 90 deg to the direction you have just come from (just before the PRIVATE signs). Continue on uphill on this path. The final part continues between two stone walls and is rocky in places. This path brings you to the road between the Birches and the Old Church. Turn right and continue up the road. In 230 m, just after Barberry Old Farm on the left, turn left at a finger post, either via a stone stile or the adjacent gate.

- h.** Keeping the wall round Barberry Old Farm on your left, follow the footpath up into the trees. Cross the stile at the top of the hill and enter a field. Keep straight on, with the fence on your right heading for the gate in the far right corner of the field. Go through the gate and past the converted barn, keeping straight on along the track, entering a lane between walls and fence. Through a gate, follow the lane down to the junction with the lane to Brook Cottage. Turn left, cross Black Brook and immediately take the footpath over the stile on the other side. Keeping the fence and garden on your right, follow the path up to a stile gaining entrance to a road.
- i.** Cross the road and take one of two paths upwards through trees. The usual path is to the right but a better, smaller, one to your left is much less muddy and brambly. The latter has the small stream on your right which you need to cross at a diagonal angle to your right at the top. Both paths then join and after 50 m you reach Glyn Road. Turn right and continue up the road. Keep left at the junction with the road to the Old Church. Where the road bends right, take the footpath (FP) over a stone stile and into the field straight ahead. Keeping the hedge on your left, follow the path to the end of the field where the option of a gate or a stone stile takes you into the lane we started on. Turn right and continue to the Bush Inn.

MAP/POINTS OF INTEREST

