

'Point of Interest' Information



Pontyclun High Street

The name Pontyclun translated from Welsh as 'bridge over the River Clun', has only been in official use since 1893. Prior to that it was known as Pont y Cloun, 'Cloune' or 'Clune', all influenced

by the River Clun, a tributary to the River Ely, which flows around the area. At this time, and until 1850, this was an area of tranquil farmland with just a scattering of farmhouses.

Pontyclun Community Council welcomes you to enjoy this walk and appreciate our local scenery and history. Bring a drink and a picnic if you want to. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather and when you finish come and look around the shops and cafes of Pontyclun. If you spot any issues or just had a great time, please tell us clerk@pontyclun-cc.gov.wales or on [facebook.com/PontyclunCC](https://www.facebook.com/PontyclunCC)

Getting there

By car

- From J34, M4 take the A4119 towards Llantrisant. At the first roundabout take the first junction left onto the A473. Go across a roundabout and turn left at the traffic lights onto Llantrisant Road A4222 – signposted to Pontyclun.
- Follow this road into Pontyclun turning right after the zebra crossing into Heol yr Orsaf and park in the car park on your left.

By train

Take the train to Pontyclun. If you have come from the West cross over the railway using the bridge. Leave the station via the exit lane and cross over to the small playground. Walk through the playground and follow the street ahead to arrive at the start of the walk opposite the Community Centre.

By bus

Pontyclun is served by a number of services. The 64 (Bridgend/Talbot Green); 321 (Llantwit Major/Talbot Green) and 404 (Pontypridd/ Bridgend) all go through Pontyclun. Get out in the Town Centre and join the walk there. The 122 (Tonypany/Cardiff) and 320 (Talbot Green/Cardiff) pass close to the Town Centre. Ask the driver to stop on Clun Avenue and walk through the park past the Rugby Club into the centre of the Town. There you can join the walk.

For travel options to get there by bus, rail, bike and foot, please visit www.traveline.cymru or call **0800 464 00 00** from 7am to 8pm daily.



Refill App is available and look out for the logo in the shops and cafes



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The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales No. 1093577, Scotland No. SC039799)

Pontyclun Circular 5

Cyngor Cymuned
Pontyclun Community Council

A series of circular walks suitable for all ages



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Distance
12.6 kilometres
7.8 miles

Printed on recycled paper.

The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.



Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.



Keep an eye out for **Bryn the Badger** as he leads you around our beautiful walks! Did you know that the badger is the emblem of our Pontyclun Rugby club?

Enjoy this walk

Taff Ely Ramblers meet every Sunday to enjoy a beautiful walk in the South Wales countryside. They also offer short two hour walks on alternate Saturdays and summer Thursday evenings. Ramblers maintenance groups assist in maintaining the walks. Contact www.taffelyramblers.org.uk for more details.



The association is a registered charity (no. 1093577) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (No 4458492).

Mae'r taflen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg.
This leaflet is available in Welsh.

The Ramblers helps everyone, everywhere, enjoy walking and protects the places we all love to walk.

'Point of Interest' Information



The Miskin Arms

The beautifully renovated interior boasts a warm and friendly atmosphere while maintaining the character of the original grade two listed building. It's the perfect location to enjoy a great meal with friends and family or a relaxing drink in the cosy bar.

The lodge and park gates opposite the Miskin Arms once led down to the Miskin Manor. The Manor

is now grade 2 listed and one of the most exclusive country hotels in Wales. The 10th century holds the earliest record of a home on the site of the present Miskin Manor, with the origins of it's name thought to hark back to the words 'Maen Cun' or 'Lovely Plain'. However, it was several centuries before a manor house was built on the site.



The Lime Kiln to the right of the track just after the small bungalow is at the terminus of the Brofiscin link of the Ely Valley Railway. There are signs of the railway track to the left of the route between here and the pond.

The unmanned station at Pontyclun was opened in 1850; however, since then it's been subject to a number of periods of closure, being renamed and surviving several mergers.



Almost a third of a million passengers every year arrive or depart from this quiet station that sits between Swansea and Cardiff on the South Wales Main Line. Wild and natural, many visitors come to the area for walking and camping adventures, which the whole region is perfect for.



Excellent 'shared use' path to explore outside of Pontyclun and beyond. This path is accessed via the western side of the train station and can lead you to other villages in southern RCT such as nearby Talbot Green or as far as Tonyrefail and Pontypridd



Ivor Woods

Wildlife

Did you know that Ivor Woods is over 200 years old!



Otter

Stop and look for Otter Spraints on the rocks by the Ely river, and keep an eye out for kingfishers, dippers, ducks, heron, and trout or sewin.



War Memorial

War Memorial

The War Memorial is inscribed with the names of those who fell in the First World War and Second World War.

www.ramblers.org.uk/wales

Start:
Car park in Heol yr Orsaf
(ST 03445 81316)

Map to use:
OS Explorer 151

5 Pontyclun Circular

Distance
12.6 kilometres
7.8 miles

Route
Fitness level
Moderate

Stiles
x25
H

Kissing Gate
x11
E



1 Starting at the car park in Heol yr Orsaf, opposite the Community Centre, go right to walk up to the town centre and cross the main road using the zebra crossing on your left.

Turn right and follow the road out of the town. Bear left before the War Memorial to go through Pontyclun Park, and re-join the road passing rugby pitches and the football club.

Take the marked footpath on the left at M&B Motors towards Ivor Woods and to the footbridge over the Ely River.



2 Having crossed the bridge head to your right and uphill to reach a kissing gate. Follow the path between houses and then cross the road heading slight left to take another path between houses. At the end of this go left walking alongside houses to reach a road. Turn right here and follow this road to reach a junction. Go left over the motorway bridge and take the signed footpath on your left.

Follow this through some kissing gates and follow it up across the field. Exit the field by the kissing gate and turn left along the road. At the junction turn sharp left, signed Tal y Garn Mews, passing the entrance to an equestrian centre. When the track swings around to the right continue ahead over a stone stile with metal bars.

Continue on the track ahead that enters a wood and reaches a bridge, kissing gate and way-mark post. Go left here to walk up a track through woodland and head up to your left as you enter a field to follow the fence line over a stile and down a track to reach a road. Go left under the motorway bridge and follow the road downhill over the river Ely passing the site of Miskin Mill, now a Scout Camp, before climbing to cross the railway.



The Miskin Mill



Ruins near Miskin Manor

3 Continue ahead to take the small lane on your right between the lodge and post-box to reach a housing estate. Walk along this road ignoring four junctions on your left to reach a stone track and barrier. Take this track past a cricket pitch, through a kissing gate and chalets to reach the gates to the Miskin Manor Hotel on your left.



Approach to Miskin Manor

Cross the road to follow along the tarmac road ahead of you by the ornamental garden, to reach the back of the hotel. Follow the road to cross the bridge over the dual carriageway

and continue around the corner to reach a stone stile on the right just after a road, also on the right.

Cross the stone stile and two others into a field. Walk to the stile, next to an electricity post, in the opposite hedge. Continue to the stile diagonally in the top left-hand corner of next field. Continue on the left side of the field past two houses to a second field via a gap. Just after a slight bend in the hedge look for a stile on the left.

Cross this stile and head through a wood to reach another stile. Turn slight left across a small field to reach a stile that gives



Woods near Groesfaen

access to a lane behind some houses. Take this lane to reach the main road through Groesfaen.

4 Cross the road and follow the signed footpath between the houses to reach a T-junction of estate roads. Continue ahead with a grassy area on the left and turn right into Bryn Creigiau and left along Glan Creigiau to reach a gate and stile either side of a track allowing entry into a field. Walk down the left-hand side of this field to reach the gate at the left-hand corner.

Turn right through the gate, walking along a track in front of a small bungalow, to reach a field on the left that is entered by a stile behind the gate.



Continue on the left-hand side of this field, over a stile, heading downwards to reach a pond on the right. Take the narrow gap just to the left of this pond to reach another stile that gives access to a track.

Turn right, through a gate, along this track until a field is reached via another gate. Head up the left side of this field until a stile is reached in the wire fence. Cross this stile and head to the right of a group of trees hiding a ruined farm house.

Continue in the same direction to reach a stile in the left-hand corner of the field. Enter a small area of trees that is exited by a sunken lane to reach a stile. Ignore the gate on the left and continue along

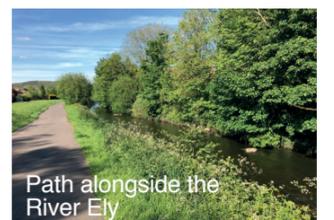
the hedge to reach a stile that you do not cross. Turn right here and cross the field to reach a stile by a gate in the left corner.

5 Cross an access road to a stile to enter a field. Head diagonally to your left towards the corner in a short hedge and follow this around and down the field to reach two gates onto a path.



Follow this path to your left passing a ruin and a gate to reach a small metal gate on your right. Use this gate to enter a field and continue with the fence on your left to reach some trees. Use the stepping stones and cross a bridge and another stile.

Walk up the field to reach two stiles by a road. Turn right along this road before crossing the stile on the left, just before the cemetery. Follow the wall on the right and exit by the stile to reach a dual carriageway. Being careful turn right along the grassy verge for a short distance before taking a track on the right. Follow this track past an entry to the cemetery, a footpath on the left, and a bridge over the River Clun until a footpath is reached just before an underpass.



Path alongside the River Ely

6 Take this footpath, first along a track, then under the dual carriageway, and through fields. Keep to the left along the river to reach a kissing gate and then pass a school to reach a road. Turn right and cross the road at the pedestrian lights. Walk back a short distance before turning right into Ynysddu to cross the River Ely.

Follow the sign on the left to Pontyclun railway station. Turn left over the river to reach the station's car park. Leave the car park by the road heading up to the high street. Go right at the top to walk over the railway bridge and continue past numerous shops and cafes to eventually arrive back at Heol yr Orsaf where your walk began.