

Walk: WOC 14

Location: Laugharne Castle & Coastal Paths Walks

Distance (miles): 54.5

Time (hours): 1.15

Length of Walk: Allow an hour to wander around the castle, outside it, peering into the Dylan Thomas garage shed and possibly popping into the boat house, and along some cobbled streets in the old part of Laugharne, behind the castle. Allow two hours for the coastal path walk.

Dates Walked: 28/12/2009

Parking: Free

Pop in to: There are some rather expensive looking restaurants here, including a five star AA restaurant in (or next to) the house Dylan Thomas used to live in.

Description: The coastal walk is quite interesting. Park in front of the castle. The car parking area is overlooking a bay which features some mud flats and the occasional grounded fishing or leisure boat at low tide.

Head away from the castle around the bay, along a potholey dirt track. This track leads towards an ugly square concrete water / sewage treatment block building. You are now at the far side of the bay relative to the castle. Before you get to the block house building, turn right up a steep footpath. This winds higher and higher until you are overlooking the coast and sea. In front of you there is a panoramic scene of green mud flats with water channels meandering through, as far as the eye can see. The coastal path goes on for quite a while. It is not very friendly to prams but we persisted along it for an hour until turning around and retracing our steps. Some nice views of the castle on the return walk.

Once you have done the coastal path, tiring out any dogs, you can take a leisurely amble with by now exhausted and controllable dogs, around the castle itself. There is a garage with a peep through window where Dylan Thomas penned some of his poems.

The garage should not be confused with the famous boathouse however; that is further along the same road and down some steps. There is also a Dylan Thomas exhibition 'centre'. The boathouse and latter require some rendering of current coinage to secure entry which is probably why I have never been inside either.

The Castle ruin itself cannot be entered, or at least, I have never gone inside it as has been all closed up every time I've been here. It may and probably does open in the summer though. Again, some fee would be required to enter it I'm sure.

Pictures taken on 28/12/2009:

We have never gone into the castle – it is impressive enough just walking around the outside.



Woodland path along the coast, moving away from the small town of Laugharne, with impressive views over the bay and sea on your left. There is a small amount of climbing to do, but it is prammable (just).



On the left, a view of the mud flats with a maze of little rivers running through it. Plus, a nice view spot to rest at. Someone seems to have left their own garden chairs here for walkers – certainly not a public bench!



Returning from the coastal walk, adjacent to the car park, there is a path running along in front of the castle, alongside the coast, before you have to climb some steps into the old part of town, with cobbled streets.



At high tide the sea comes over the path in front of the castle. Ahead, steps lead to the Dylan Thomas boathouse and garage shed.



Left pic shows the Dylan Thomas boathouse, while on the right is the garage, from where he wrote many of his poems. A peep window looks into the garage, laid out just as it would have been in Dylan Thomas' day.



Looking into the castle itself. Closed in the evenings and I believe in the winter.

