

Walk: SOC 11
Location: **Margam Park**

Directions: South to J45 M4, turn towards Cardiff, but soon turn off and follow sat nav or signs to Margam and you should come across signs to Margam Park soon enough.
Distance (miles): 30.7
Time (hours): 0.46
Length of Walk: 2-3 hours
Dates Walked: 23/08/2009

Parking: Free

Pop in to: The Orangery at Margam Park.

Description: Extensive council owned country park estate, with a large Orangery (restored) which does weddings and an old house (yet to be fully restored and opened to public). There are gardens between the Orangery and the old house, plus a ruined chapel or small church or some such, with paths and some interesting trees (monkey puzzle trees etc).

For a longer walk, there are acres and acres of open parkland and some woodlands you can walk through. There are some deer so avoid dogs going too far into woods out of your sight as we found this is where the deer hovered about. The open spaces are most pleasant and give the dogs ample opportunity to have a good run.

There is also a farm display arrangement, with paddocks holding horses, chicken, and more exotic animals all of which you can walk around.

Near the entrance there is a further small wooded area with bridges, rope bridges, narrow paths, and interesting man-made walks and viewing platforms.

Pictures taken on 23/08/2009:

The grand house at Margam Park is currently not open to the public but looks dry inside, and seems to have had some use. If it were to be done up, it would make a superb venue for functions. There are miles of open parkland you can wander through, but if running dogs off the lead, note there are plenty of deer, often hidden in the wooded areas, so you need to keep dogs in your line of sight.





Below right is “The Orangery” which is used as a venue for weddings, having been restored, and holds about 500 people I believe. It is massive. Sadly there is no accommodation at this venue, but if they did up the main house, with rooms, they would be on to a winning combination. Craig y Nos Castle, which does 90 weddings a year give or take, recognises Margam Park as one of its competitors for weddings, albeit it is so large, that anything below about 90 diners would seem lost.



This little lake is somewhere behind the Main House and a little up from The Orangery. You may be able to walk all around it but we did not explore or find any lake walks apart from a few yards parallel to the gardens.



Leaving the main gardens and the main house behind you (see pic on right) you heads along another lake or river, towards a show-farm. Good for children as it is laid out clearly with a view to displaying the farm animals.



Jack likes the river anyway.



The Farm at Margam Park.



Goats in one field, donkeys and horses in another field, with paths all around and in-between. The farm area is worth visiting. Also, en-route, there is a children's obstacle course cum sandy play ground area, with wooden bridges, rope bridges, tunnels and hidey houses. This substantial play area has obviously had some investment put into it, but it was deserted when we were there. It appeared to be free to enter.

