

Walk **EOC 02**  
**Location: Penwyllt rail station (disused) / Penwyllt Quarry.**

- Directions: Turn left out of castle and within half a mile or so, take the first left (if get to Penycae, you've gone too far).
- Carry on up single track lane, turning left at first fork in road passing behind the Old Vicarage (right takes you to a dead end and a farmhouse) then carry straight on up the hill, quite a steep climb in parts, till you get to Penwyllt quarry.
- Park near the old railway station, near the old platform.
- Distance (miles): 2.8  
 Time (hours): 8 minutes  
 Length of Walk: 2 hours approx for the circular walks and for the full linear rail track walk.  
 Dates Walked: 23/03/2008, 16/04/2008, 23/08/2008, 17/10/2008, 04/03/2010.
- Parking: Free; park near the old railway platform.
- Pop in to: Caving Club though it is not really open to non Caving Club members. A Dr. Who episode was filmed in the caving club houses I believe (the cannibals in Wales one).
- Description: Several long walks can be done from here. Do not go right along the railway track (south) as this dead ends in some gorse bushes, even though it is in theory a public right of way (despite the private signs on some gates).
- Instead, go left (north), through a couple of farm gates. The gate you need to go through is at the end of the row of houses on your left as you came up the road, before you got to the quarry.
- By foot now, you will pass alongside and above the quarry on your right. The path curves round to the left to some private houses (some derelict) but you need to branch right, climbing over the second gate which cannot be opened, into a field on an exposed part of the mountain. This sometimes has sheep in it, out of site over the hill, so keep dogs on leads here.
- Small dogs can go under this second gate (including my Golden Retriever); larger dogs will need lifting over.
- Route is prammable if you don't mind lifting pram over this gate and one other. After you've left the quarry behind you, you rejoin the old railway line and carry on along it to the end. It eventually rejoins the A4067, after around three miles, at which point you would turn around and walk back the way you came.
- NOTE: Should you wish to travel along the rail track in a southerly direction, you would go north (right) out of the castle, along the A4069 to the top of the hill (almost) and park on the first layby on your right. If you see Crai Reservoir, you have gone too far. The track is steep for about 100 yards, then levels out as you join the railway line.
- Suitable for mountain bikers and easily reached from the castle – from where mountain bikes can be hired. However the climb up the Penwyllt country lane is exceedingly steep and only for the very fit – you may need to get off and walk up the Penwyllt road from the castle, but once at Penwyllt, there is not too much hill work.

### CIRCULAR WALK OPTION (A)

You will see a major track to the right about a third of the way along, which quickly takes you into a large section of forest. You climb a fair bit through the woods, before coming on to a large open space. Here you will find one path goes to the left, which you would not take on this walk.

Instead bear right, and then take first right, joining what you will discover is another old rail track (buried sleepers still in place on parts of the track). This effectively runs parallel to the lower track, taking you back round the side of a mountain, through another gate (with, beside it, a dog gate arrangement). On the left is a section of mountainside missing where they have been quarrying in the past, and a pile of stones which used to be the old winding house to pull the stone laden trains up (or to allow them to slowly descend) the hill.

You then go down a steep dead straight track, at the bottom of which, take a sharp right to curve round to the caving club (looks like a row of terraced houses in the middle of nowhere).

Follow the pot holey track road from the caving club to Penwyllt station and your car.

### CIRCULAR WALK OPTION (B)

Do the above walk in reverse.

From Penwyllt station (disused) where you have parked, head along the dirt track to the caving club (heading south).

Just before the caving club building (a row of terraced houses in the middle of nowhere) take a left through the pedestrian gate and follow the path round to the left.

You will come across either another pedestrian gate or a field gate, depending which path you took. You need to bear left going up a dead straight and very steep section of old disused railway track. At the top you will come to an open area of old quarried mountain on your right and a pile of stones which was the old winding house.

Continue along the path, through a field gate, following the old track for a fair while, going around the side of the mountain. Off to your left you will see a large forest; it is a little below you and to the left. You may also spot the flat area of the lower railway track (disused) below you, which you will eventually be walking back along.

Take the first footpath left, and follow it on to another larger path, leading to a gate at the top end of the woodland. Take the path through the woodland, following the same winding path down hill all through the forest. Do not turn off on the paths leading off to the right or left.

At the bottom you will come to a field gate. Go through this on to an open area; continue along for a couple of hundred yards until you join the main old rail track path. This used to be the Brecon to Swansea railway line, now disused.

Turn left on to the rail track path, muddy in places. All this area has excellent views. Continue until you reach Penwyllt and your car.

Towards the end, just before you reach Penwyllt, you do need to bear right slightly, through a couple more field gates, with the old quarry (currently being worked) somewhere on your left. You will pass a couple of derelict houses before reaching some lived in houses just by the Quarry.

**Hazard Warning:** Be alert to occasional herds of large black cows with malevolent expressions on main lower section of rail track. They are generally between Penwyllt quarry and the turning off through the forest. They sometimes block the path and if you have dogs, give them a wide berth by leaving the path and circling around them. If they are on one or other side of the path they will not bother you but keep dogs to heel. Provided your dogs will walk to heel, it is advisable not to put dogs on a lead near cows as should they give chase; the dog needs to be able to escape.

These cows are not friendly and best avoided if you come across them.

Sheep are dotted around in the open spaces, though not in the woodlands and quite thinly spread. Keep dogs under control / on lead until you pass any sheep areas. I have been with one walker whose dog gave chase and killed a lamb, so you do need to be aware of the temptations in these parts.

(Dr. Who/ Torchwood fans: You may recognise the row of terraced cottages that form the Caving club. They featured in a particularly gory episode of Torchwood where mentally deranged cannibalistic locals were chopping up and eating any passing tourists).

Pictures taken on 23/03/2008:

View of level former railway track from waterfall



Woodland (path on the left) – this is an uphill stretch



Useful clear water stream (right, after exiting wood)



Mountain top bleak scenery after leaving woodland



Looking back the way you came, towards woodland



Returning via upper old rail track path; good views



Pictures taken on 10/10/2009:

This sequence shows the return journey along the railway track. You can start the walk from the northern end of this section of track by driving right out of castle, heading up the A4069 past the show caves, on up the hill almost to the top and starting walk from first layby / gateway area on your right as you go up the hill.



