

Walk: SOC 15
Location: **Forest Park Walk, nr Cynonville**

Directions: Set your sat nav for Cynonville then look out for the numerous country park signs. There are many lay-bys along the road south of Cynonville so you can pick any suitable spot and start your walk.

Distance (miles): 28.3

Time (hours): 0.47

Length of Walk: 2-3 – as long or as short as you wish to make it.

Dates Walked: 21/02/2010

Parking: Free

Pop in to: Swansea – or coastal areas, or scenic routes due north rather than going via Neath and A465 on way back.

Description: We found this -----
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walk having first visited Llandarcy, following a report on TV of a town being built nearby in accordance with Prince Charles' village design – Coed Darcy. The latter proved a disappointment as only a couple of years into its 20 year building project, but we made up for it by setting off for the nearest Country Park / forest,

An old coal mining area turned into a woodland, there are cycle tracks and obstacle courses for proficient mountain biker, streams with small waterfalls, woodland walks, some steep, some level.

We spent a couple of hours here, first going round a woodland area with streams, then dropping down to a flat path which is now a popular cycle track for families with children. Judging by the occasional former platform, this path must once have been a railway line used for transporting coal as well as workers and passengers.

We only did a fraction of the walks in this area and would revisit. The only slight problem which I did not notice, but which my wife commented on, was the smell. Presumably this was left over from the area's former industrial past.

All the walks are well marked. Choose the length of walk you want and follow the appropriate colour symbol, or, as we did, walk along the cycle path for a couple of miles then turn back.