

Walk: SOC 07
Location: South of Glynneath, B4242 approaching Abergarwed: Forest and Canal Walks near Resolven.

Directions: Set sat nav for Abergarwed, travelling via Glynneath. You head into Glynneath, turning right at the traffic lights coming from the Castle, continue on past the Tesco mini store and garage on your right, and take the first right before the road curves round to the left. If you pass MacDonalds you have gone too far. The right hand turn off should be sign posted to Resolven. Continue south down the B4242 which is a minor road running parallel to the A465. Soon after you pass a large warehouse area (there is a large Sunday Market here) on your right, you will see a woodland path sign to the right. Continue up the dirt track for 500 yards or so, park up, and you have some excellent circular walks in the forest. This walk is somewhere between Pentreclwydau and Abergarwed.

Distance (miles): 17.3

Time (hours): 0.28

Length of Walk: 2-3 hours or longer depending on tracks selected and whether you get lost. Keep your bearings with reference to the valley in which the A465 travels.

Dates Walked -

Woodland: 05/04/2009, 11/04/2009,

Canal Paths: 04/04/2009, 07/02/2010

Parking: Free

Pop in to: Alternative walks without the hilly climbs of the woodland paths exist going all along the canal. You will see various spots to park up on the right as you head south down the B4242. Only problem is with this – there is some road noise from the A465 on the Canal Walk.

Description: Numerous woodland paths in the woods above Glynneath and Resolven Market. It is possible to do a two hour circular walk here, though we only found this on second attempt having walked off in one direction the first time, and the other direction the second time, and finding where the two walks met up. There are hills, gravelly paths, prammable, ideal for dogs to have a good run off the leads, pleasant woodland.

If you prefer flat ground, then instead of continuing down the B4242, park up in the first obvious car parking space on the right. Here there is a small country park with plenty of open spaces, and the country park leads onto the canal towpath, which is in good condition and carries on down to Neath. You can walk for miles along the Canal path, though you do have to come back the way you came, while the woodland paths option allows you to try some circular routes.

I like both the woodland walk here and the canal walk, despite the road noise on the latter. There is no road noise from the A465 on the woodland walks.