

Walking Itineraries

2 Talybont-on-Usk



Information

Where is it?

Start and finish at the cafe/Post Office LD3 7YJ. Talybont-on-Usk is signposted from the A40 between Brecon and Crickhowell. Explorer Map OL13 or Landranger Map 161 - SO 113 227.

Distance

3.5km (2 miles)

Time

Allow 1-2 hours.

Terrain

Mixture of road, foot paths, cobbled tram road and canal tow path. Part of the walk gets boggy in wet weather. Generally level, but with gates and stiles in places. The canal towpath is accessible by scooter or wheelchair.

Grade Moderate.



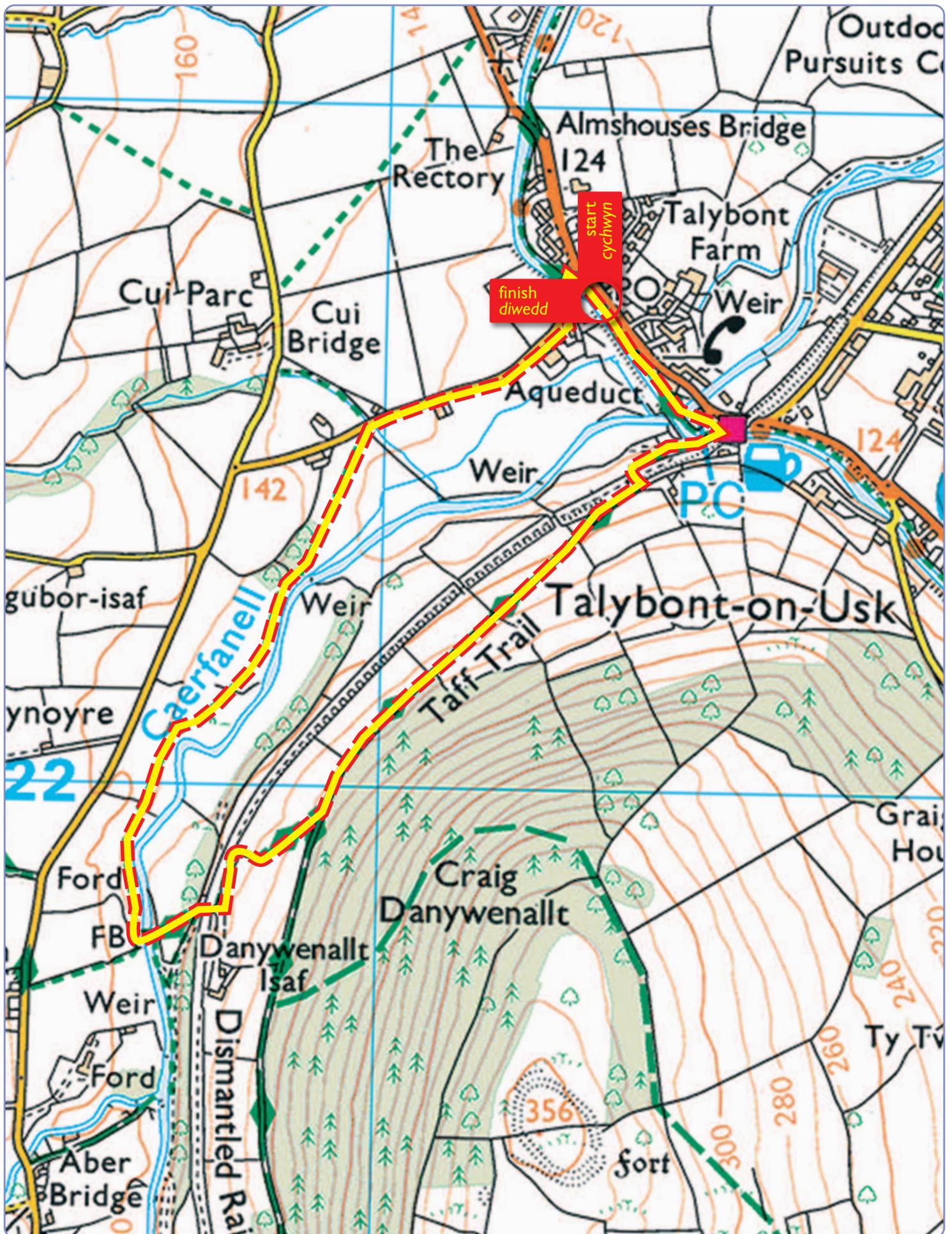
This is a gentle stroll through the scenic and historic landscape that inspired the famous poet and doctor, Henry Vaughan (1621-95) and his twin brother Thomas (1621-66), who was a priest and scientist. They were born at Newton Farm nearby.

Stretches of the walk follow the Monmouth and Brecon canal and the Brinore Tramroad, both completed in the early 1800s. It is an easy access trail with benches, way-marking and swing posts that reveal excerpts from the Vaughan brothers' poetry.

Please note

Trails can become slippery due to adverse weather conditions. Please take extra care when walking. Suitable footwear, sturdy shoes or boots with a good grip, are best worn at all times.

The Route



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The Route

1 Cross the road from the café/Post Office and walk over the canal swing bridge. Follow the road as it bears left then right, past the old school house. Continue walking until you cross a bridge. Climb the stone stile next to it on your left.

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2 Walk through the field, towards the river following the way markers. This field often has horses in it - they are part of the Cui Stud of Welsh Mountain ponies. Go through the kissing gate and through another field, keeping in close, but safe distance from the river on the left (River Caerfanell). Continue through another kissing gate, and look for a tall post. Pull the handle and read the poetry. You are now on the Henry Vaughan Walk.

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3 Walk through the field and cross the bridge. Go through the gate immediately on your right, following the path, with the river now on your right. Look out for another Vaughan post. After a short distance the path then divides. Take the path to the left which slopes gently upwards.

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4 Turn right under the railway bridge then bear left. Carry on along the track a short distance and go through a gate and then a kissing gate into a field. Bear right and follow the distinct way marked path that runs up hill alongside the fence. Go through the kissing gate onto a wide path (the Brinore Tramroad) where you will find another Vaughan post.

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5 Turn left and follow the Brinore Tramroad down towards Talybont. The total tramroad runs for 8 miles (13 km) from Talybont-on-Usk to Trefil near Merthyr Tydfil. It was used between 1815-1865 to carry coal from the Rhymney Valley and limestone from Trefil to the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal at Talybont.

6 Look out for a notice board on your left and the Henry Vaughan garden. This garden is sown with herbs and other plants Henry would have used in his scientific and medical experiments. It is a good spot to stop for a picnic.

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7 At the end of the tramroad turn left over the old railway bridge and follow the road down to the White Hart Inn and the canal. Turn left and walk along the canal tow path until you arrive back at the swing bridge and the café.

Variation Can be walked in reverse.

To shorten Walk in reverse from the White Hart pub along the Brinore tramroad to the Henry Vaughan garden and return. Turn right at the White Hart on return and follow the canal to the remains of the lime kilns, the tram and Brinore Tramroad information board. Walk back along the canal. (1 m/2 km).

To lengthen At 3. Instead of taking the path to the left continue on with the river on your right. Cross a stile and head uphill across a field to a gate. Turn right here. You are on the old Brecon to Merthyr railway track. After 100m you reach a path junction. * Turn sharp left and head uphill for approximately 200m. This takes you to the Brinore Tramroad. Turn left to join the original walk after about 0.5 mile / 1 km. * Continue straight on to reach Talybont Reservoir (another 0.5 mile / 1 km) Retrace steps back to *

Activities suitable on this route

Geocaching, BMC I - white corner GC2EC5V, journey sticks, colour palettes, bird watching, photography.

- 1 Craig-y-nos
- 2 Talybont
- 3 Taf Fechan
- 4 Pontneddfechan
- 5 Llangorse
- 6 Pen-y-crug
- 7 Twyn-y-gaer
- 8 Llanfoist
- 9 Sugar Loaf Mountain
- 10 Cribarth



Information

Parking Roadside parking is available through the village-please park responsibly. Alternatives include the village hall car park (Henderson Hall). There is no charge but there is a donation box available.

Refreshments and toilets There is a shop/post office with a café (Open Mon-Sun 9-4 Ring: 01874 676663 to check) and several pubs in the village. There are toilets at the village hall (20p charge) and also for customers at the cafe. The closest disabled access toilets are at the Llansantffraed lay-by on the A40.

Public Transport www.traveline.cymru
By train - nearest mainline station is Abergavenny (15 miles away)
By bus - X 43 Abergavenny to Brecon via Talybont.

Nearest Towns
Brecon. All facilities.

Websites
www.breconbeacons.org www.Geocaching.com
www.talybontonusk.com
www.brinore-tramroad.powys.org.uk
www.breconbeacons.org/explore/things_to_do/walking/where_to_walk/short_walks/talybont_valley

Dogs Suitable for dogs. Should be on a lead near livestock.

Sample Itinerary

- 10.30 Arrive. Tea/coffee at the café
- 11.00-12.30 Follow the route to the Henry Vaughan Garden
- 12.30-1.00 Picnic lunch (or lunch at local café or pubs)
- 1.00 Finish walk. Visit the Talybont lime kilns (see shorter walk overleaf) or visit Henry Vaughan's grave at Llansantffraed Church at the A40 junction <http://www.breconbeacons.org/church-st-ffraed-llansantffraed>

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